

**BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
Council of the County of Maui

**MINUTES**

**April 1, 2025**

**Online Only via Teams**

**CONVENE: 9:05 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair (arrived at 9:20 a.m.)  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (arrived at 9:30 a.m./left  
at 10:00 a.m.)  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (arrived at 9:12 a.m.)

**STAFF:** Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst  
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst  
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary  
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney  
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director  
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office  
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office  
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokaʻi Residency Area Office  
Jared Agtunong, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office  
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

**ADMIN.:** Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Tiare Horner, Budget Specialist, Office of the Mayor  
Priya Landgraf, Executive Assistant I, Office of the Mayor  
Ezekiela Kalua, Administrative Assistant II, Office of the Mayor  
Laksmi Abraham, Executive Assistant I, Office of the Mayor  
Patrick Ornellas, Economic Development Specialist II, Office of the Mayor  
Victoria J. Takayesu, Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation  
Counsel  
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation  
Counsel

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Kristie Wigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the  
Corporation Counsel  
Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff, Department of Management  
Cynthia M. Razo-Porter, Director, Department of Personnel Services  
Kainea Aiwohi-Alo, Deputy Director, Department of Personnel Services  
Marcy Martin, Director, Department of Finance

**OTHERS:**    Testifiers  
Jasee Law

Others (9)

**PRESS:**        *Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.*

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 9:05 a.m., and today is April the 1st. I would...my name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm the Chair of this Committee. I'd like to welcome everybody and...and mentioned that this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. So, as a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not present in the Chamber...and I think the only person maybe right now is...well, we'll see who's going to show up. You do not need to name anybody that is a minor. And so, at this time then, Member Kama called. She's going to be a little late. She'll be here shortly. Chair Lee, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, aloha kākou, and xin chào from Vietnam.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Xin chào. Okay. And Member Paltin, xin chào.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Xin chào and aloha kakahiaka kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Xin chào to you, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Xin chào, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office and I'm here and ready to work. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Xin chào, aloha, good morning. There's no testifiers in the Kihei Office, but Jared is standing by.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And xin chào to you, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, Chair, and xin chào.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we have Member Kama and Member Uʻu-Hodgins who will be coming later, and I guess we'll have Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I think she's here. From the

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Office of the Mayor, we have Lesley Milner, who is the Budget Director. And we have also the Chief of Staff, Cynthia Lallo. Welcome to the meeting. Department of Personnel Service, we have Cyn--...Cynthia Razo-Porter, who is sitting in the Chambers. And Department of Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo, and Kristie Wigglesworth from Corp. Counsel. Committee Staff, thank you very much, Pauline, Committee Secretary, Senior Committee Secretary. I also want to give a special shoutout to Kirsten Szabo and James Krueger, Jarret Pascual, Clarissa MacDonald. I don't know who it was, but all of you were working on all the questions to the departments last night close to midnight, so thank you very much. I'm sure that was sent off to the departments. Our Legislative Attorney, Peter Hanano, good morning; Richelle Kawasaki, our Deputy Director of Council Services; and Lei Dineen, who's in the...who is in the lobby area. Please take a look at the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED Committee meeting.

**ITEM 1:                    PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY  
                                 OF MAUI**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have only one item on the agenda today, which is Proposed Fiscal Year '26 Budget for the County of Maui, BFED-1. So, Members, I will be taking testimony after the opening comments today and after we hear from our resources. The...because we have one item on the agenda, all of you know and the...for the public who may be watching that you may testify on any item that is on the agenda for three minutes, and we will be taking that after we go through our opening comments. We have from the Office of the Mayor, Cynthia Lallo, as well as our Budget Director. Department of Personnel, they are sitting in the Chambers, and we will have...hear the presentations and take resource...re--...take questions...they will take questions from us after. On my calendar I have, I plan to adjourn at 4 o'clock, but if we finish earlier, we can adjourn earlier, and then 6 o'clock tonight, we have our first Upcountry Residency Area meeting for all of you to attend. So, before we turn over things to the department, I wanted to ask Staff if you could do a summary of all the things that we talked about yesterday and upcoming. Thank you. Kirsten?

MS. SZABO: Thank you, Members. Just a couple of reminders. Today at 4:30, the range of rates and tiers is due if you have any proposals that you would like be incorporated into the agenda posting. We also wanted to confirm the five departments that if their responses are received and there's no concerns that will not appear in front of the Council, and that will be Liquor Control, East Maui Water Authority, Office of the Auditor, Office of the Clerk, and the Prosecuting Attorney. And then also, we'll be handing out a copy of Appendix A, Part II with a list of all of the departments that...that manages those...those revolving funds. And then lastly, just I guess two more things related to time. Your questions are due for the departments at 9 a.m. the next day, so if you could get those in to us, that would be great...that would...we'd appreciate it. And then...oh, we will start at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, the questions, what it means is that if you have questions from yesterday that you want clarified, please send it to [staff.committee@...staff.bfed...](mailto:staff.committee@...staff.bfed...)

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MS. SZABO: Yes, thank you. Staff.bfed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. SZABO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: @mauicounty.us. So, if you have any questions from yesterday, please send it to them as soon as possible. And I also want to say thank you very much for working on the letters to the departments, as I saw my computer going back and forth with you know, the...the work that you're doing. So, by this morning then, all the departments have the questions from the Members, is that correct?

MS. SZABO: I think there's a couple of departments, but we are almost done, and we should be done by the end of today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, as you know, the first round of questions went out immediately, and then this next round of questions are the questions that you sent that the department sent to the individual departments. So, we have two different sets of questions. So, the ones that were due yesterday is going to go out...probably everything will be out to the departments today. And the list of departments that were read by Staff are the departments that you said yesterday that we may not necessarily need to have them come back for questions based upon you receiving the responses to your questions, which is the second set of questions, as well as the first. So, we're in good shape. At the appropriate time then, Staff, we will then adjust the calendars. Okay. So, once we get all the question res--...or the responses back from the departments, then we'll approach that. Okay. Very good. Thank you very much. So, at this time, I would like to ask Ms. Lallo to provide opening remarks from the Office of the Mayor and...and introduce any other members. It looks like you're here alone, yeah? I thought you would have your whole cadre of friends. For the Department, it's only you. And just for Members' information, in Granicus, the responses are labeled OM-1 and OM-3, and it's number 10 and 63 in Granicus for your information. So, Ms. Lallo, please give us your opening comments.

MS. LALLO: Thank you, Chair, and good morning, Committee. Thank you so much for allowing us to come before you and have this conversation to present the Mayor's Office budget for this fiscal year. We're submitting a 13 percent overall budget decrease compared to last year, reflecting the removal of the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery general-funded cost, and the thoughtful transfer of several grant programs to departments better positioned to manage them. These adjustments are strategic. We are streamlining operations, improving efficiency, and ensuring that programs are housed in the agencies best equipped to deliver meaningful results in both the short and the long term. The Mayor's Office is prioritizing economic investment in wide-reaching, long-term strategies that build resilience and deliver a lasting impact for Maui County. Central to this approach is the enhancement of alignment, coordination, and collaboration across County departments. To support this, the Mayor's Office is designating dedicated team members serving as liaisons to facilitate cross-departmental

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efforts. This added bandwidth and flexibility enables the County to respond more effectively to real-time community needs and to strengthen programs in alignment with emerging priorities. These improvements reflect an intentional shift towards stronger interdepartmental collaboration, ensuring that our investments are not only strategic, but are also deeply coordinated, maximizing their reach, efficiency, and effectiveness over the long term. We are also strengthening our incoming grants coordination by offering expertise and facilitation to County departments in need of support. These efforts aim to enhance our overall capacity to identify funding opportunities, develop competitive grant applications, and effectively manage awards through completion, ensuring that we maximize available resources and leave no funding opportunities on the table. These efforts are grounded in an intentional shift toward stronger collaboration. The Mayor's Office...oh, so sorry. . . .*(laughing)*. . . With the establishment of the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources and East Maui Water, responsibilities once held by the Office of Innovation and Sustainability are now housed in departments specifically designed to advance cultural stewardship and natural resource management. In addition, we are deepening our alignment with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Management's Environmental Protection & Sustainability Division to integrate sustainability, resilience, and environmental innovation into the County's core operations. This budget reflects a county government that is positioned to be more focused, coordinated, and responsive to the needs of our residents. We are committed to building effective and efficient systems that not only serve the present but also position us for a resilient and prosperous future. We're looking forward with the Council in partnership to bring this vision to life. I want to add that we have several resources online, and Ms. Priya Landgraf is here and will be joining us up here as a resource. Whenever you're ready, Priya. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Did you want Priya to come and sit next to you? Please. Please join us. Next, does the Budget Director have anything to add from the Mayor's Office?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. The Budget Office doesn't have any significant changes to our budget, so if I may, I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank my team for all their hard work. You'll see there's some position changes to reflect the growing responsibility, and I just...you wouldn't have these budget binders without them, so thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . We know how that is. All right. So, next, we have the...I'd like to invite Personnel Services. If you would like to just come here and...and join us, and then you can do your opening responses if you don't mind. So, at this...while she's coming down to join us, please do, their initial letter and response is number 25 in Granicus, PS-1, and then follow-up letter on number 36 in Granicus labelled PS-2. Department questions letter is 6...is number 62 in Grani--...Granicus labelled PS-3. So, Director, would you like to say a few words and introduce your staff who are with you?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Is it on? Good morning. Good morning, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Good morning, Committee Members. This--I'm Cynthia Razo-Porter. Next to me is Kainea Aiwohi-Alo. She is the Deputy Director of Personnel Services. I just have a few written comments that I'll share. So, the Department of Personnel Services is the central personnel agency for the County of Maui. Our requested budget for FY 2026 represents a 2...12.5 percent increase over 2025. Although we managed a relatively flat budget in the salaries and wages, we did ask for funding for all 25 E/P. We are also requesting a \$300,000 increase to professional services, and this is to hire a consultant to help us review our administrative rules and regulations. The \$300,000 increase we believe will allow the Department to procure a consultant to provide a comprehensive review, and this is then compared to all the other jurisdictions...other public sector jurisdictions, of our administrative rules, policies, procedures and if any, recommend statutory changes. We believe hiring a consultant for a comprehensive review will result in a more streamlined, effective, and legally compliant operational framework. Probably like 23 years ago, civil service rules were changed, and we did some updates of policies and procedures essentially putting all of what was in HR...-or in HRS into our rules. We'd like to kind of provide a more detailed insight into any other changes that we can make. We believe having a professional subject matter expert who's...you know, with specialized knowledge, their expertise and objectivity will help us maybe improve what we need to in our rules. Further, we lack the resources and bandwidth for such a significant undertaking. And, you know, be able to make us recommendations to best practices by reviewing our current rules related to hiring, recruitment, and onboarding. We believe a consultant can help us identify inefficiencies that delay the hiring process. And ultimately, the goal is to enhance the candidate and employee experience, improve morale, and potentially reduce turnover. I thank you very much for this opportunity, and we'll be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much, Director. At this time, I would like to welcome the two Members. So, it's xin chào, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Xin chào, everyone. Good morning. I apologize for my delay. I had a late start. It was Ehukai's (*phonetic*) birthday this morning so we had to do the full thing, which, you know, makes everything about ten minutes late. But good morning, everyone. Xin chào.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...(*laughing*). . . Happy birthday. Yeah. And xin chào to you, Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and xin chào to all of you. I don't have an excuse as good as Nohe's. ...(*laughing*). . . It's always going to be Leena (*phonetic*) because she has no sense of timing. So...but anyway, I'm glad I'm here, and I'm so happy to hear what you had to say. I can hardly wait for questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Leena is a good reason to always...so, Members, so at this time then, I'm going to open it up for public testimony. Do we have anybody?

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**. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .**

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's currently no individuals signed up to testify. I can do a last call if you'd like.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I see Mr. Jasee Law coming to the podium. So, at this time, I'd just like to say...is he the only testifier that has signed up so far? Yeah? Okay. So, state your name and organization you're representing, if any, and you have three minutes.

MR. LAW: Aloha kakahiaka, aloha kākou, aloha *Akakū*. I always...when I see the County employees, I try to talk to them. They don't...some of them don't want to talk to me that much. I know they're busy and on the clock. And I try to...I tell them that a concept I have about the...the County of Maui is that the corporation of Maui, the kalama o Maui (*phonetic*), is...you guys are--everybody working together, we're all together as a corporation against the rest of the world and all the rich people trying to take over Hawai'i. So, thank you, everybody, for working on Maui. And the...the Hawaiian word of the day is one I used before, is *kālā* with the macron over the two As. That means money. And...and I just wanted to...I heard that...who told me...I think Ra--...ambassador told me that this the first time in 100 years that the budget has come out in 'Ōlelo Hawaiian [*sic*], and I...I find that very encouraging. Thank you for your time, and I save the rest of my time for the Hawaiians.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions? Seeing none. Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez will be joining us online, and we'll...you'll let me know when you see her pop up, yeah? Okay. That's great. So, Members, with your permission, I'm going to close public testimony and receive written testimony for the records.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. So, the exciting thing today is that I heard some question or some of the Members were saying, oh, maybe we can finish early like we did yesterday. And I will tell you that we are scheduled to go until 4 o'clock today, but if we can, if you...if you...when you receive the responses from the departments and if you feel like we do not have to ask the same questions over, then we'll save time. But you're in control of time. So, at this time, I'm going to ask for a three-minute round. Oh, Personnel, you can be excused. I'm sorry. And then we'll call you after...while you...when we...done with the Mayor, yeah? Thank you very much. So, at this time, we'll take questions regarding the Mayor's budget. And let's go backwards. Member Sinenci, would you like to go first? Three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair, and mahalo, Chief of Staff. I know we had a previous discussion and...concerning the homeless, and Ms. Naomi has been doing a great job out there with her outreach into the...into the...to the homeless camps. So, I

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was just...I wanted to get you again, does...is she have enough staff and support to continue her work as she goes out and does these outreaches?

MS. LALLO: Thank you so much for the question. In relationship to Naomi's kuleana, I would say yes, she certainly has the EA team that is behind her to support. One of the things that we need to look at is...is the...the...it is a shared responsibility, certainly, amongst many departments. Yeah. But also, Human Concerns, right, has a particular call, via the...the Charter and its mission, right, for this effort. So, it's collaborative, and I would say yes. Is there ever enough for this effort, that...and, that's a challenge for sure, right? There's much that can be done. But for now, yes, I would say so. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Yeah, I...I did remember. So, just to clarify, Naomi has the support of all the other departments that may help her as she goes and does her outreach.

MS. LALLO: Yes, Councilmember Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. And then I do see that there is a lot of...well, the grant subsidies that many nonprofits can apply for. Can you remind me what the date is? It'll be probably in the fall that...that agencies can apply for some of these grants through the Mayor's Office?

MS. LALLO: Yes, thank you for the question. So, right now, the workshops are going, and they have been completed. We will have another opportunity to talk about mission purpose of OED with potential grantees coming up. And you're right, that deadline is in the fall, and I'm not sure exactly when it is, but I can get that for you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. That's all I have for now, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, we'll add that to the list of questions, about the workshop, and deadline, and where details. Thank you. Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I'm going to follow up on Member Sinenci's first question regarding Naomi. She does a lot of important work, and I know that she has the departments behind her if necessary, but she goes out alone pretty much. What kind of financial help does she have? Last year, I specifically put in some money for her, I think it was about 200,000, because I think she was nearly operating alone. But is...does she have any financing in this budget for all the work she does?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for...for your question, and I would reflect back her effort is significant.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. LALLO: Yeah. And appreciated.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.



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MS. LALLO: There is \$300,000 --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LALLO: -- in the budget for...for Naomi's work.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Good. Cool. Thank you. And then my next question is what's the future of OED looking like these days?

MS. LALLO: Thank you so much for that question. I'm glad you asked. I don't know if that's a budget question.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. LALLO: It's OED's strategy, and love to come back to talk about that or I can ans---...or I can give you a brief overview.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, I mean, like I did ask those questions, and I'll look forward to seeing those other questions in writing, but for now, I would just like to know what...what is the future of OED?

MS. LALLO: Absolutely. So, the focus of the Office of Economic Development is just that. I believe that it's really...over the many years, decades, has turned into a grant-making division, and the focus really needs to be on economic development, right? And so, we are restrategizing four key areas where we can have deep impact, pull big levers for deep impact for the Office of...Office of Economic Development. So, that work will be done in coordination with partners within the community that are experts in that area already and also looking at industry leaders in the specific areas that we're going to prioritize. So, instead of the shotgun approach, we're really looking at a laser-focused strategy --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LALLO: -- again, in four areas.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And then how long do you think this course correct or pivot is going to take, and are we looking to hire somebody to help us obtain that goal or are you going to still be splitting all your time doing all the things?

MS. LALLO: Yeah, The Three Faces of Eve. Yeah. So, thank you for the question. We will be looking for a lead for...to realize that vision for certain. We're putting all of that together now, and we would like to start all of that before the end of the fiscal year. So, we'll be seeing shifts and--excuse me--changes in the next couple of months, and so we'll be looking for a particular person to be able to lead that, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And then I'm wondering if you could tell me about the \$300,000 in there for the wedding summit, and you could maybe describe what that looks like. Is that going to be bringing people here, are we looking to go someplace, and

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what do we envision that \$300 [sic] is going to provide us in our wedding industry?

MS. LALLO: Great, thank you for the question. So, in relationship . . .(timer sounds). . . to who...who Maui is, our identity, and what is working really well, we know that the wedding industry, typically private venues, not necessarily hotel venues --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MS. LALLO: -- and all of the vendors that are associated with that are incredibly strong. Folks come in and visit, right, and...and have their celebrations, and then they leave. So, the \$300,000 is really a vendor summit, and that's bringing people here to Maui and taking a look and really showcasing, I guess, Maui and our strengths in that area and what's available. Maui is a world-class wedding destination. We know that, and so it's just amplifying that effort. So, again, that summit, vendors in, summit, and leave.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. When you guys get your new person for economic development, I would love to see like a Taste of Upcountry, like how we have the Kapalua Food and Wine Festival, because Upcountry has some really great products that I think need to be showcased better, and more, and often, and I would love to see that come to fruition. But thank you so much.

MS. LALLO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. Next, we have Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Well, you answered my first question when you answered Nohe's about the \$300,000 grant for Office of the Homeless [sic]. So, the--my ques--...question is the \$200,000 appropriation for the creation, implementation of a land...land management plan. My question is what is the objection...objective of the plan, and should this be under the Department of Finance, Land Management Division?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question, and it's a good one. So, a lot of times, we start things off in the Mayor's Office because we're crazy enough to take it on and say, hey, Josiah, this probably belongs in a department for longevity, right, and consistency. So, Land Management, as we were talking about encampments earlier, Land--we have a huge opportunity with Land Management in relationship to hazard mitigation, encampments, safety liability, all of those things, and so that shift towards land management focus will pull all of those things under the umbrella.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And my next question was the...the Film Office under MEDB is requesting an appropriate 300...appropriation of 345,000. In FY 2025, 200,000 was appropriated for a strategic plan for the film and video industry. So, my question, has a strategic pan...plan been developed? If yes, will the Film Office be implementing the recommendations, and if no, why was it not? I'm just curious about the breakdown in the funding for that...the \$200,000 that was appropriated previously.

MS. LALLO: Sure. Yeah, thank you for the question. Another good one. So, in relationship

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to what...what the vision was for the Film Office under the previous Director, I cannot speak to. So, it's kind of like, okay, these are the pieces of the puzzle that we have, what do we do with them, right? The Film Office has taken a significant shift based on the leadership and the focus of that leadership. We have Brian Kohne and Kathy Collins. And the strategic plan was not done in a comprehensive way. The...the Film Office was a County employee...a County program, and now we're funding it through a grant, right? So, we've kind of released that and...and all of those pieces. So, is there a plan? Yes, there's a plan. It is not reflective necessarily of a \$200,000 strategic plan like you might think.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thanks. I think that...yeah, it'd be great to have the film industry take roots, and it's been challenging, but it's a worthwhile challenge. So, thank you. That's my questions for now, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. And we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez who has joined us online. I don't see her, but...oh, there you are. Oh, cool, you're at the Capitol.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou, xin chào. I am at, yeah, the...the Capitol on O'ahu at the moment, and it's a public space so I don't have to name all the people around here. And I'll be ready in a little bit with questions. I've been...I've been monitoring from this...from this morning, I've just been in transit so I kept my video off. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Oh, cool picture, your background. So, next, we have Member Johnson, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Ms. Lallo, I have a lot of questions for your department, but some of them we've already dabbled on so if I get the answer, I'm just going to move on. I hope you don't mind me interrupting. The \$300,000 for the houseless solutions, what is that being...going to be used for? I know some of the Members mentioned it, but what is it being used for?

MS. LALLO: Great. Thank you for the question. The \$300,000 will be used for storage and efforts in cleanup --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. LALLO: -- as well as bus passes, and cell phones, and things like that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right, thank you. I'm going to pivot again. When did we stop paying the OED Director?

MS. LALLO: January 31st.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. I'm moving on. The...because you already answered that she'll be hired...that person will be hired within this fiscal year. Who is KemperSports Marketing, and what services do they provide? What was the attendance

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of the 2024 Maui Invitational, and was it sold out?

MS. LALLO: Great, thank you for the question. So, it was sold out, and KemperSports, of course, is the folks who coordinate the logistics and host the Maui Invitational.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. The purse is a \$20 million purse for the PGA for the Sentry tournament. Why are we supporting them for...with a \$100,000 grant when the purse is a \$20 million purse for winning?

MS. LALLO: Right. So, this was explained to me. A good question, I had the same one. The...the winnings and all of those things sit over here in this pot, and then PGA has the logistics. And so, PGA actually secured the Sentry tournament for the next...I want to say into '30 something. I have the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay.

MS. LALLO: -- details of this and our responses to the questions that you sent, and I can tell you that the Sentry tournament has just in their philanthropic endeavors, not including the economic driver that it is, has donated over...more than \$7.5 million to our community. So, the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. LALLO: -- bang is worth the buck.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Yeah, I...I got you. The juice is worth the squeeze, right?

MS. LALLO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The...you answered about the wedding industry. Thank you for that. This one's really important to me. Is there a reason for feral animal control grants staying in OED instead of being transferred to the Department of Ag? And I see Director...go ahead. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Sorry.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. We transferred the animal management grants over to Ag this year, and so we felt also transferring the feral animal control on top of those would be a significant increase in their responsibilities, so we wanted to give them another year to get those animal management grants under their belt, see if they need any additional resources. But yes, down the road, we would like to transition those we feel they have a better place in the Department of Agriculture.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. If the feral animal control grants stay within the OED, would you object to broadening the scope? That's the second part of the question, for the feral animal control for Lānaʻi to include mitigation for birds and rodents. You know, the bird netting is...those birds kill our...our crop, you know? And we have deer fencing that's . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . 12 feet tall, but really, we need the bird netting. Can we

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increase the scope of that?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. Yeah, I think that's definitely a conversation we can have. I don't think that would be an issue. I...that sounds like it falls under the feral-animal umbrella.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, the...my time's up. I just want to thank you for the concise answers. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. So, next, we have Member Paltin, followed by Chair Lee, and Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I think my first question is for Ms. Lallo. Who is the current Energy Commissioner?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question. The current Energy Commissioner's duties fall under me at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are you looking to hire an Energy Commissioner?

MS. LALLO: We are actually looking at hiring an Energy Coordinator in the Department of Management.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, so is the Office of Economic Development position the Executive Assistant I position?

MS. LALLO: That's a great question. I'll have to get back to you on that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because it says there's only three vacancies, and none of them is the OED Director, so I...I'm not sure. It says that it was vacant as of January 2025, so I'm not sure if you're showing that the Energy Commissioner [sic] is vacant position, or the OED Director is a vacant position, and none of those seem to correlate with the three vacancies you've had. Next question, for Ms. Landgraf, are you still the owner of Premier Weddings [sic]?

MS. LANDGRAF: I...I am . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Microphone.

MS. LANDGRAF: Hello. I do still own that company for tax purposes but do not operate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and you filed a financial disclosure with the Board of Ethics?

MS. LANDGRAF: My position doesn't require it. But again, I am not operating, nor have I operated the entire time.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And for Ms. Milner, why was the decision to move animal control before feral animals? To me, it seems like feral animals more aligns with agriculture than the Humane Society, so why was the decision made for that one first?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. We actually had started talking about this...we were looking at the animal management last year, so that was already in process. We just started talking about the feral animal control this year. So, it was just a matter of the timing of the conversations, and Human Concerns had already prepped Ag to take it over and we haven't had a chance to prep them to take over the feral animal control yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the move of CDBG to Housing. Historically, we've funded not just Housing, it was since after the fire. So, is this mean that CDBG going forward will only be for Housing? I think had tanker for Lānaʻi and other things.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. No, it doesn't indicate it will solely be for Housing, but because the CDBG funds are intended to serve our low-to-median income population and a lot of it does affect housing, we felt it was more appropriate that it lived there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then for the economic development-- . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . oh, never mind. Thank you. Thank you for the concise answers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you may have Round 2 questions. Chair Lee, and then Vice-Chair Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Good morning, ladies. I...a lot...several of my questions have already been answered, but you mentioned at the beginning I believe that the Mayor's budget is 13 percent less than last year. Okay. However, you transferred a bunch of programs out, so what would be the total dollar amount of these programs so we know, you know, exactly what the net is, the true net? Okay, do you have that? Okay. So, we need to know if you took X number of programs, the value of that, let's say \$5 million, and you put it somewhere else and you...you only dropped 13 percent, so that means you added...you added to the Mayor's budget. Do we know what that amount is?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. I would say probably one of our largest increases was the \$68,000 expansion in professional services under the Mayor's Admin program to...we combined that with the professional services line item from the OIS program for items such as resilience hubs, the OATI contract --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. MILNER: -- and other items like that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Maybe when you have a chance, you could jot that down, you know, list what was trans--...transferred out and the amounts and what was added,

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actually added this year and the amounts. And how many E/Ps have changed. Sounds like you're doing more contract work, so where are the bodies going? Where did you leave the bodies? . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you want to --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And then, so --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Would you like us to send that in writing? Question in writing?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, if they don't have it here...I mean, now, I, you know...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Then the...finally, you...you did say...you...you mentioned something about hiring a lead person for OED. Is that...did I hear correctly?

MS. LALLO: Yes, you did.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, that administrator would essentially take over what you're doing?

MS. LALLO: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, because apparently, you know...well, not apparently. I've been receiving a number of concerns from constituents about the slowness of the...the funding, the grants, you know, being executed and so forth. So, is this lead person going to be able to hit the ground running, or is there going to be a whole bunch of time for training?

MS. LALLO: I would hope that they would be hitting the ground running. The selection would indicate that, but remembering that there's grant making and there's also economic development.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: There's grant...what did you say?

MS. LALLO: Grant making. Grant giving.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, you know, we have so many grants all over the place. I think you know that I've been concerned about that, that...that we need a gigantic grants-management machine to keep track of grants going out, grants coming in, and my concern about that is . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . the competition for time and resources. Comment?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. The Chief of Staff has reached out to all of the departments that currently award grants. We are putting together a working group so that we can get everyone in the same room. We want to ensure that we're not

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duplicating our efforts. We want to make sure that grantees aren't getting pots of money for the same work, things like that. We also want to get everyone on one grant management software. We want to streamline our application process. We want to streamline our grant awards so that they're the same, which will make Corporation Counsel's life a lot easier, and we want to make sure we're checking all the boxes that Finance needs checked so that we can get rid of some of these delays.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That sounds great. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But one last thought, maybe you want to comment later, is somebody has to be in charge. Okay. You know, too many people in the kitchen, yeah? Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Chair Lee, we'll send the question to the Department. Next, we have Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Directors, for being here. I so do appreciate you folks, and we don't have a lot of time, so I'm going to be real quick. So, I wanted to ask about your electric charging stations at the County facilities. They are Evolution System chargers, and they're currently not required for people to pay to use them. Is the Mayor's Office going to at some point in time...because we're subsidizing those chargers, are we at some point in time going to charge the users for using those things?

MS. LALLO: Great, thank you for the question. Yes. The answer is yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. And will those rates and changes be included in Appendix B of the budget bill?

MS. LALLO: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I'm looking forward to that. So, another question I have for...for you that is totally going back to Shane's question in the beginning when he asked about the \$300,000 for Naomi, and another question...comment was that you were going to use it for storage, for cell phones, and for so and so forth. So, what part of that does she actually get, and how does she access those monies for other things other than what you've named?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. Yes, I have met with Naomi a couple of times about utilizing this year's fund, so I believe the process will be similar for next year. She will RFP out the contracts when needed for some of the larger projects and go through the PO process or other purchasing requirements for the smaller items. But at her dis--...I won't say discretion, but she will be the one leading how those funds are used how she best feel it will serve the County in coordination and discussion, as Chief of Staff said, with our other departments who also have that as



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their kuleana.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, so if she decides that she wants to do a parking lot and she has some ideas about...for the...for the...you know, we talked about that couple of years ago and she decides she wants to do that, is she able to put an RFP out for that particular project or does that still have to go through Human Concerns?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. That project is running through Human Concerns this year. They've put out the RFP and funds have been included in their Fiscal Year '26 budget to support that, but they are working with Ms. Crozier on that process and how it will move forward.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, so I took a look at the RFP and it...it's very strict. It's really strict. So, how do you get into...how do you...are able to...to put into an RFP what you think that people can respond to as opposed to having it so restrictive that people are not going to respond and then you don't get what you're looking for because it's too restrictive?

MS. MILNER: Thank you for the comment. I would say that we will see how this RFP goes. If people don't respond to it, we'll need to go back to the drawing board and we'll . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . need to shift it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Was that my bell, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That was so quick.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Quick bell.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. That's okay. Let's go. Holomua. Let's try to get to four rounds today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Four rounds?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I only asked two questions. Okay. I not going to talk slower or something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so my turn. So, Energy Commissioner, I have a question regarding JCI. So, I'm...you are in charge of the JCI contract? Who is handling the contract, and explain the request for the third-party audit for JCI savings, measurement, and verification.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for that question, Chair. In relationship to the JCI contract...so, JCI's contract, right, says you're going to save this much and it's a guaranteed savings. If that guaranteed savings isn't realized, they owe us a check. So, we can't have them also doing the measurement and verification, we need a third-party entity, nonbiased third party to take a look at that and verify that those measurements are indeed what they

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say they are.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And when is that going to get done? It should be already done already.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Their first report is due this coming October, so we anticipate the RFP going out July at the latest because we can't evaluate those numbers until we get the report in October.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And...and when will the...when can we receive...well, we're thinking we're going to have savings, right, so the annual payment back to us from the results?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. We'll only receive a payment if they don't meet their energy savings requirements, so we will have to wait until our independent audit is done, and then if the audit finds that they're saving...they aren't meeting the savings they said they were supposed to, we'll need to have a discussion with JCI and request that payment and move forward from there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are they done with all their work? I know they were phasing their work.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for that. They have now moved on to photovoltaic systems so the other work is completed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And are we...do we owe the bank any more money?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, our annual payments are continuing. They've been included in the budget under debt service.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, there's somebody who's in charge and paying attention. I know that Dr. Cairns was doing a good job on behalf of the Mayor's Office when he was in your...one of your many seats. So, you are watching as to what's going on. That's very good. I...I have...so, we'll check further because that is something very important as we are probably in debt. How much are we in debt for with this JCI contract?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I don't have the full breakdown. It was approximately \$20 million I believe, but if you could send it in writing, I can get you the exact breakdown along with the annual payments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, can we send that in writing? We'll get something...yeah, okay. Okay. Okay, good. So, one of the organizations that came to see me, and I think they were going to see the Mayor's Office, was our...our neighbors across the street . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Ka'ahumanu Church. So, did they...or you have...you have them...what do you have in the budget for them?

MS. LALLO: We have no specific line item in the budget. They came in last week I believe so the...the timing was challenging, but we actually have a follow-up meeting scheduled that...with them as well.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you don't know what they're asking for? It's all with their building, right?

MS. LALLO: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In their historic building. So, you're...you'll let us know your --

MS. LALLO: Yeah, absolutely. I want to say that the...that the...the overall renovation cost I want to say is like 2.2 million or something like that, but I...I will get that to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, they're asking you for 2.2 million?

MS. LALLO: No, they are not asking...they're asking for support, and we brainstormed and are going to do a follow up to see how...how that action went.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, did you want to ask questions? Is she still online? Oh, not available? Okay, so we'll start again. Member Sinenci, and we'll go right down the row.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Just some follow-up questions from the first round.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you folks need two minutes for the second round, or you...or three minutes? Oh, okay, three. Okay, we're at three minutes then for the second round.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I'll take two.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You mentioned the Energy Coordinator. Is that one still...you...you're looking for that...that vacancy is...that position is vacant?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question. Yes, we are looking for a person with that expertise.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then...and that also was from January 1st, or that was just the OED?

MS. LALLO: I am not sure. I want to say that that was at the very end of December. Actually, mid...maybe mid-January.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then with the closing of the Office of Innovation and Sustainability, those grants that were given out from those...from that department, has that also been transferred to another department?

MS. LALLO: The majority were transferred last year. Um-hum.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. LALLO: To Environmental Protection.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right. And then on page 558 for Festivals of Aloha, that funding is for each of the...the districts that have festivals?

MS. LALLO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, just clarifying. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Ms. Lallo, I have a...I have a question for you. Okay, so you are now our Energy Commissioner, OED, Chief of Staff, and Boards of Commissions, is that correct?

MS. LALLO: I can tell you that those follow...fall under my purview.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, so normally I say, like, that's bananas, but that's like a whole bunch of bananas.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . That's a lot.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Who's going to take over...and we discussed all the other ones, but as you know, our boards and commissions have been suffering, and they have been for a long time. When are you going to continue staff Boards and Commissions, is somebody else going to do it? What are...what are we looking like in the future of Boards and Commissions in the Mayor's Office?

MS. LALLO: Right. Thank you for your question. So, as we know, Cory has moved on to East Maui --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yep.

MS. LALLO: -- and we have hired two people.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LALLO: The second person just started today --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. So, soon, you're going to --

MS. LALLO: -- to focus on Boards and Commissions.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- alleviate that and you're going to abdicate that powers to be, and they will go into the two peoples and they will show up at GREAT and help

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us navigate through all of this?

MS. LALLO: 100 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yay, cool. I see that we have about \$57,000 in Boards and Commissions to help facilitate some of that. We have \$9,000 in advertising, other services. Do we need to increase that fund so we can reach more people? Do you think that's been sufficient?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question, and that's a good one. I think we need to do more marketing and education and less announcing.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay, cool. Agreed. And then in reading and hearing some of the commissioners and their concerns, they really don't have a space and they don't have a person to contact when they have any issues. Does each board and commission get some sort of allocation of funds, and can we create a space for them? Because right now, I think everybody's using the Liquor space or...or the Planning Commission one, and we have too many, in my opinion, boards and commissions, not enough space, not enough IT help. They don't have any. They actually wanted to come into our space to see what it's like because their meetings are also advertised. But what do they have to help support us to do their important work?

MS. LALLO: I'll let Budget Director talk about the...the...the financial component, but one thing that I would comment on is...remember Haggai --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

MS. LALLO: -- and all of that work? Amazing opportunity, and the focus on some of those rooms there, boards and commissions, all the tech is already there.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LALLO: It's perfect. But we are in transition with that as you well know with --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yep.

MS. LALLO: -- 80 percent occupancy of survivors.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Can she answer? And then I'll be pau.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins. Yes, we have the Boards and Commissions index as you saw. That's for the boards and commissions that are supervised by the Office of the Mayor. The Planning Department has their budget for the Planning Commission, et cetera, as all the departments do. But I don't know that there's a specific pot that they draw on necessarily, it's part of sort of their B/C budget usually. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. I'll make sure to ask everybody if they think they have enough funds because I don't think it's been adequate.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. My questions is for Ms. Lallo. This really...it impacts the budget, but it isn't necessarily a budget question. The Administration's...the Mayor's Office...and I think that you were very involved in it...previous to the fire was a construction-industry group of both County departments, as well as professionals in the community that were meeting to collaborate (*audio interference*) --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and work...work together to streamline...we keep saying streamline, but anyway, work more cohesively for permitting and land use. Is that currently...is that still going to be in the Mayor's Office, is that going to be in Management, and is there a plan to revitalize that endeavor?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question. I would say yes. Actually, Priya...mostly Priya and I, love and support, have revved that up again. We're looking at trying to manage some internal things first so people don't feel so defensive and are a little bit more able to talk about different opportunities. In addition with our experience with 4LEAF, an outside third-party vendor. Very successful collaboration there. So, I think folks are a little bit more willing to do something new.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, I will volunteer even though I am a legislator that if you want to broaden the participation, I would very much like to be involved in any way possible that you would...may...may see fit. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have anything to see? Priya, you look like you're going to say something. Excuse me. No? Okay. Next, we have...I don't see Member Rawlins-Fernandez, so Member Johnson, then Member Paltin, Chair Lee, then Vice-Chair Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Once again, I'm just going to jump into it. I got a lot of questions. If I get my answer, I don't mean to cut you off. Okay, the...you mentioned about the discontinuation of Office of Innovation and Sustainability. Who's going to lead and be the point of contact for working on goal number 5 and goal number 6?

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MS. LALLO: Thank you for that question. We will actually have an offer out to an environmental liaison. If we can think of Naomi and homelessness --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. LALLO: -- we can think of this new person and environment, so they will be facilitating that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Any...any timeline on when we're going to hire?

MS. LALLO: I hope within the next two weeks.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

MS. LALLO: The offer is out.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great. Now, this goes on to kind of a carryover on...on this question. Identify the liaisons from the Mayor's Office and the key areas each is assigned. So, who's the Lānaʻi liaison? Who's the Molokai liaison? Can you go down that list?

MS. LALLO: Sure. We do not have geographic representation; it's more subject matter.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. And you plan to continue doing it that way?

MS. LALLO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, that means I get to come talk to you guys about Lānaʻi issues.

MS. LALLO: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. Let's see...the next question is in regards to what resiliency projects were started in FY '25, last year's proposed budget set a goal to start seven, and what is the status of these projects? Please account for the 692K for modular resiliency hubs in FY '25. And how is the money spent and what is the status of these projects? And this is kind of long, but if you guys want to get it back in writing or you can speak on it, but what's the proposed plan and goals for resiliency hubs and land management plan continuing funding for FY '26, explaining how these builds off of FY '25 and resiliency hubs.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question, and we do have a response to that in our written...in our written responses. I will just note that January 2025, there is a climate-ready Maui Nui action plan in relationship to resilience hubs.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay...okay. What...what is the spending plan for the Hawaiʻi

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State broadband funds? And not...okay, I'll just...what do you think?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question. A majority of that actually is community engagement. I want...I want to say we have a particular contract with an entity on Molokai, and most of that sits around community engagement and community access.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So that's what you're going to be spending it on? Is that...that --

MS. LALLO: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. What's the spending plan for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant?

MS. LALLO: That is a very good question, and I'm going to...I...we have that in our written responses.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay.

MS. LALLO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And then how about the...this is a pivot again on a different question. The film . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . promotion, 345,000. I know we talked about it, but can you talk about like additional details on how it will be spent or allocated on the film promotion?

MS. LALLO: Yes, thank you for the question. That is a line item for MEDB for the next --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

MS. LALLO: -- fiscal year, and it will sit...it will sit under there. That will include the historic Film Commissioner work, as well as the Wailuku Film Festival.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: MEDB's taking that over?

MS. LALLO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Interesting. All right, thank you. My time's up. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, Member Paltin, then Chair Lee, then Vice-Chair Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Following up on Member Johnson's questions, of the three vacancies, which one is that Office of Sustainability position that you mentioned? It's not...I mean, there's an Administrative Assistant II, an Executive Assistant I, and a Grants Management Operation Assistant, so I'm not sure which is the OED Director, which is the Energy Commissioner, which is the in--...innovation person.



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MS. LALLO: We can send a revised response including the OED Director. That was not included in the original information that we sent out. And those are good questions. I'm going to have to get back to you on that. I know that we have some resources online, so I will see if they --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You can get back to me in writing.

MS. LALLO: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On the resiliency hubs, in last fiscal year, it said that there was a resiliency hub at the Lahaina Civic, and then this budget, it says, West Maui, 200,000. I love all the money and resources, but I haven't seen the resiliency hub. And, you know, I know folks in West Maui has been working with Baja on a resiliency hub, but is that related to the County's efforts?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question. Yes, that is related, and in relationship to partnering with community entities, as you know, folks out on the West Side are incredibly busy and stretched thin, so that has been strategized and restrategized a few times.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, what was the money used for in the past fiscal year, just meeting?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yeah, we can provide a breakdown of how the professional services line item was used. I don't think a significant portion was used for the resiliency hub this fiscal year, which is why we've included a large amount for next fiscal year, because the majority of this years' time was spent on having those community meetings and working on a way forward.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. In last fiscal year, it was talking about the Climate Action Resiliency Plan. I...I had heard that was transferred to EP&S, but the EP&S person that was working on it is no longer there. Will it come back to the Mayor's?

MS. LALLO: No. Thank you for the question. No, it will not. We have talked to Director Agawa and had conversations about collaborating on that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the ECONorthwest study, was that done under the Mayor or under Human Concerns?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question. Human Concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did the Administration read the study?

MS. LALLO: Yes, we did.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, in terms of that they weren't able to create a strategic plan because the stakeholders, there wasn't significant collaboration and cooperation or

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something, coordination, and then, you know, with the homeless budget here and in the... . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . what...what is the Administration doing to address the issue that prevents consultants from creating the strategic plan?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question. We are working collaboratively across many departments including Human Concerns to hui up and strategize and implement. That also includes some of our community experts, subject matter experts, as well as advocates. So, all of those folks are a part of a comprehensive, coordinated plan.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But there's no one leader . . .*(inaudible)*. . .?

MS. LALLO: Specifically in relation to...to encampments, is...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, in relationship to the report saying that, you know, somebody needs to bring everyone together for coordination and collaboration.

MS. LALLO: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like who's...if it doesn't happen, who do we point the finger to?

MS. LALLO: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I'm reluctant to throw anybody under the bus here, Councilmember, but we need to remember that Human Concerns is the lead. In the Mayor's Office, Mayor has a liaison and certainly significant coordination comes out of that, but the kuleana for that particular subject matter sits with Human Concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, Chair Lee, and followed by Vice-Chair Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I'll try to make mine short so I can give my extra time to this Hawaiian. Okay. So, anyway...you're welcome. Anyway, the...there's 400,000 for the Pā'ia Clean and Safe program, and that's, I believe, under the Mayor's Office. And then we have the Department of Management that has 194,000 plus for the Wailuku Clean and Safe program and the Countywide Public Art program. Why would there be these two similar programs in different departments?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. We actually spoke to the Department of Management this year about that. So, Wailuku Clean and Safe, we are contracting directly with the entities to perform the work in Wailuku whereas for Pā'ia Clean and Safe, we are giving a grant to the Community, and they issue the contracts. The Department of Management doesn't really have grant capabilities right now, so they ask that Pā'ia Clean and Safe remain under Office of the Mayor where we have a more robust grant-making staff.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The...you give the grant to the community?

MS. MILNER: I believe it's the Pā'ia Community Association.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I see. I see. Okay. We asked this question last year, so, you know, she has a memory. Okay. She's fond of clean and safe places. All right. So, the other thing is again, it seems...and this has been brought up several times. I guess we're all concerned about the...the...the homeless program and how it seems to be scattered, and is there a long-term plan to bring it back under one roof with one major coordinator like Naomi?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question. So, yes, certainly there needs to be one leader, right, in relationship to follow up and accountability, and again, that...that major program sits under Human Concerns. Naomi is incredible. She's boots on the ground, all of those things. Absolutely agree. In relationship to strategizing that right now, that sits with Human Concerns. We're obviously going to need to have continued conversations. Encampments and...and the management of encampments will fall really under land management plan, and the houseless services and things like that will continue with Human Concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It...it's great to be under Human Concerns, but the problem traverses a number of departments. Yeah, and so that's the reason why you have Police, you have Public Works, you have all the different org--...organizations, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . departments. So, that's...that's the concern, yeah? Thank you. I ran out of time. I used your time. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . . All right. . . *(laughing)*. . . Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, I just want to go back to clarify your response regarding the...the...the Evolution charges and when they're going to get...when those charges are going to occur and if they were going to be in the Appendix B. Would it be in Appendix B of this budget year?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. It is not included in the FY '26 budget. We are working with the departments and the Department of Finance to figure out the appropriate costs. I foresee that will probably be a budget amendment during this fiscal year, or it will be incorporated into the FY '27 budget.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Are we able to see what those rates might look like before?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. Yes, we'd be happy to do a presentation prior to submission of the amendment or the fiscal year budget.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. That's...so, then...my next question is so when you have the Department of Human Services who are...technically, they are the entity, they're the agency, and you have an EA that works under the Mayor that's doing what I perceive as...what the Department does is they coordinate, but they're not out there boots on the ground, right? So, when something...there's a homeless guy on the side of the road, you call your service providers, tell them, can you go out there, if the service provider is available. But when somebody calls and says there's a homeless guy on the ground

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over there, the Mayor calls Naomi and says, can you go out there, go check, right? That's fast because you don't know what's going on on the other side. So, what kind of relationship does...or I'm trying to figure out how...how does...how do they blend together so that they work together without having...I mean, are they equal partners, are they co-equals, what are they?

MS. LALLO: That...that is a great question, and I would love Director Tsuhako's mana'o on this. In relationship to Naomi, she goes, right, and she just handles it. But Naomi is going to work in a coordinated fashion with the service providers that the Department of Human Concerns is both funding and facilitating, so I would say that it is a collaborative...I don't know about the...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: The hierarchy?

MS. LALLO: The hierarchy piece, yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And I think maybe that was...that's what troubles me because I'm not...I'm not sure how this game's being played and I don't know what the rules are, but I just know that there's a body out there that does a whole bunch of stuff that gets some support but always has to go to another body. I mean, the \$300,000 we're looking at over here, I don't know if that's what Naomi was looking at in terms of...to pay for storage here, but...but I don't know. I'd probably have to discuss it with her regarding that. But I wanted to talk about...over here, it says...oh boy, I missed the page I think. There was money for County events. I forgot what page that's on. Oh, 552. So, there is...here it is. Maui County events, 250,000. What is that for?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. That was a condition that was added, I believe, two fiscal years ago by Councilmember Paltin under the sports and events line item. It's \$250,000 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. MILNER: -- specifically for Maui County residents to participate in or host events in Maui County.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Wow.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, doesn't say because here, '24, '25, and again, '26. It's that . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . same money that's carried over. The time, the buzzer. Who's timing...nah nah. Round 3. No, no. I'm going to wait for Round 3 because I know they got some.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, speaking of events, so how is the Maui Fair coming along? We haven't heard anything.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's what I was going for...

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, I believe the work is continuing apace on the Mounty--...Maui County Fair. I think Josiah has the latest information on that, but I know they're working really closely with the consultant and getting things ready to go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, so it's not under the Mayor's Office?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. The contract is under the Mayor's Office, the grant, but he's working with Mayor's Office, Management, Parks, kind of all over, as well as non-government entities.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I also noticed that in the Mayor's budget, you have Maui Community Theater, which is 'Iao Theater, I believe for 55,000. I think they've been getting that for years, which is for maintenance and restoration of the building. And myself and Chair Lee were invited to a board meeting for the Maui OnStage directors, and they're very concerned that they're like the wrong people to take care of that building. So, I'll be--just for your information, I'll be submitting something because I'm concerned...it's our building, so it's a CIP, and we'll see what it ends up to be. We're working with Management and...and Mr. Shupack, I guess, right, for the CIP. But the reason why I'm telling you this long story is that in the...in your budget, for Mayor, there's 55,000 for Maui Community Theater, and I think we'll take that out because it's going to be...it's for the building, but it is going to be encompassed through this other big CIP which needs to happen. I think it was a big ask for us to think that they could take care of this historic building. And just for your information, it's going to be 100 years old in two years, so it's not 88 years old or whatever it says in the writeup. I think we just cut and paste, cut and paste for all these years. So...but it...it's a concern that it's our building, we need to celebrate it for 100 years, and so I'm going to be...well, you can tell me if we shouldn't remove that, but I think it's a duplication, you know, once that happens. Could you please check with Management, CIP for that? We can send that to them in writing. Yeah, okay. So, the Film Commissioner situation is wonderful. I think all of us met with Brian Kohne, and he's done...he's done a good job. And there's like a disconnect. He doesn't work for the County, but he's our Film Commissioner. I always think that's really odd because when I worked at OED, the Film Commissioner...Commissioner was Amy Kastens, and she was running around that office in OED, and she was the Film Commissioner, no doubt in my mind. I wish...I think she would have wished she had this much money. But can you please find out if we're not paying for the Film Commissioner, what...what is the situation? And it's...it's kind of odd, they're...they're located at UH Maui College, I think. They're now under the Off--...MEDB. They're getting way more money than the Maui...Maui Film did. . . .(timer sounds). . . So, what is happening in this? Very important.

MS. LALLO: Yeah, thank...thank you for your question on that. I am not sure, again, what the vision was taking the Film Commissioner out...out of the...the County purview with the...the previous OED Director. So, I'm not sure about that, and it is a little wonky in relationship to what we've known historically, and that it sits with MEDB. So, I'm having ongoing conversations with Brian and seeing what...what is the best fit.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Can you please tighten up whatever, and we'll send something in writing because all that's going on at the Legislature now about film, and then you have us with film in the State, film at MEDB, and film at OED, and one of them is not correct, right? I mean, usually you're employed by one person, usually. I don't know. Well, I think that job is important enough to be...I have another question, but do you have questions, Chair...I mean, Vice-Chair? Should we go for another round of three?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you want to? Oh, okay, we'll go with Shane. We'll go down again. So, Shane, you first.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I...Chair, I can wait for my written questions --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- answers to my que--...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're fine?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I think I'm okay for now, unless somebody has a question that sparks up another question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. Member Cook, you're fine? Very good. And Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I have about four more questions. So...but the first one I think maybe you could do it in writing. I'll just read it out. If you want to speak on it, that's fine too. So, please list all the entities that applied for funding, the amounts requested, the amounts approved, and the project titles or descriptions for the economic diversification and development initiative, small business promotion, technology business promotion, and the workforce development programs in line i---...page 551, program budget. Please do this for FY '25 in the extent possible the Office has been to solicit applications. So, that's a big one. I don't know if you guys can respond to that, maybe in writing, right? Unless --

MS. LANDGRAF: Yes. Thank you --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, go ahead.

MS. LANDGRAF: -- Councilmember Johnson. We will respond to you in writing, we have the report ready, and it will be sent to you.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great. Thank you. What are the funds for the UH Maui College Cooperative Education Program used for? If the funds cover stipends or wages, what is the hourly equivalent that they are paid, and do any other economic development program grant subsidies pay for internship stipends or wages? If so, what is the hourly equivalent to these interns being paid? And that's on page 556 of the program budget.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, you did? Look at you.

MS. LANDGRAF: Councilmember Johnson, thank you. Same, we will have that report for you. We have it ready.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, thank you for that. Switching on, please describe the Office's stance on the need to market and promote Maui County as a visitor destination versus the need to impact the manage...manage imp--...need to manage the impacts of tourism. How does this stance inform how applicants to the Tourism Management Grant Fund are selected and ranked, and what are the goals for the use of this fund? And that's on page 558.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Just really briefly, last year, all of the funds for the Tourism Management Grant Fund were conditioned for specific entities, so it was not a competitive process. So, if those funds are not conditioned this year, then there...it will be a competitive process, and I will let Chief of Staff speak to the goals there.

MS. LALLO: So, thank you for that, Budget Director. In relationship to the focus of tourism, Mayor's stance is on kama'āina, as you well know, and so the focus on the tourn--...tourism industry is really about workforce. And when we meet and...and when we focus on areas, it's how do we enhance for our own folks here, not necessarily blasting it from...from the rooftops, come to Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's a very refreshing policy change. Thank you. My last question is...is who is the liaison for the Open Space Natural Resource, Cultural Resource, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund, and what process and procedures exist for prioritizing the use of this fund?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question. So, in relationship to Open Space, we actually have three folks. This has just been restrategized --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

MS. LALLO: -- like moments ago kind of --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

MS. LALLO: -- thing, right? So, we have three folks . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . that are...that are

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focused on that, somebody that is boots on the ground, making sure that the folks that we partner with to steward the land are doing what they say they're going to do and making sure they're doing it in an appropriate manner, and then we have somebody that handles the actual filings and paperwork component of it, and then somebody that oversees all of those pieces, including all of the partnerships.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Those were my questions. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Paltin, do you have more questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I have a few. For the MED [sic] film promotion, anyone can apply for that money? It's going...going to MEDB, and then they're going to disperse it, is that how it works?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Those are going to MEDB. They already have set up a mechanism working with Mr. Kohne for film promotion in Maui County, including the Wailuku Film Festival and other things, so they will be sort of the fiscal sponsor for Mr. Kohne's work.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, it won't be available to like locally based film producers?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I know a part of the objectives and initiatives that the film promotion is working on right now is reaching out to local producers to work with them. I will defer to Chief of Staff on if there's a funding component to that.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for that. I'm not sure about the funding component of it, but I know that the leadership of the...the film program is completely focused on local, and local directors, and providing opportunity for local film makers, as well as youth.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: As well as what?

MS. LALLO: Youth.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the other question I had, you know, I think it was last term, Member U'u-Hodgins had a Charter amendment about managing our Open Space funds, and we ultimately pulled back. We want to be able to manage all County properties, not just the ones purchased with Open Space funds. You know, I think Kamehameha Schools having to pay like \$700 million for the fire starting on their property. What is the County's plan for our unmanaged lands? I know every time I drive by Mile Marker 13.5, I see plenty stuff coming out, but I don't see any prevention for it to happen again, that we're continually dumping rubbish off of unmanaged County lands, and I just was wondering...I mean, I heard about a land management plan. I know there's a conservation-something committee, but if the fire was this summer and then we're held liable to like 700 million, is there a plan? Like is...what kind of monies has been put...put in the budget this fiscal year to address all of our unmanaged lands?



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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, the Administration would agree that we want to ensure that the County-owned properties are managed correctly, and definitely to mitigate the sort of risks that you speak about. As we talked about earlier, the Office of the Mayor has included funding for land management, I know the Department of Finance has some money for land management, some extra positions this year, and I believe the Department of Corporation Counsel has also put in a position for a dedicated land management individual, so that's something I think we're trying to do Countywide across our departments, and we just want to continue to improve.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the property that's executive ordered in West Maui up above like Maui Lani Terrace area, Honokowai Palms, the Director has said she's trying to give it back to the State instead of develop affordable housing on top of it, and that it's currently under Housing Department. When I spoke to Housing Department, they said they don't have any resources to manage land that is currently under there. I also heard that it's not . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . legal to be using it for other purposes, and yet a private condominium complex is using it for their own personal parking with their own personal chain that nobody in the County knows about. So, if we're not in compliance of using the land for affordable housing, does it really matter if we use it for safe spaces to park? Because we're already not in compliance. And has any communication been done with the State about re-EOing it for a safe parking space? Because it's already a parking lot, you know, and people are parking there, but you know, it's like private citizens are getting a benefit that...it's not the purpose that it was executive ordered for. And I know there was a study done under the Tavares Administration. A lot has changed since then. Maybe is it time to include it into the parcel studies again for affordable housing given the situation, or safe parking? The other thing I just wanted to mention, on March 17th, in Member Sinenci's meeting when Director Tsuhako was asked the question, who's leading, she pointed to the Office of the Mayor and the Management Department. So, that's why we're trying to find out who the leader is because everybody says it's somebody else.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you want us to send that in writing? No need?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have the...do you have the TMK for that parcel or more description?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think I sent it in writing to the Housing --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Department, the TMK info.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can check, yeah? Could...okay. So, fine, we'll...we'll do that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry. If...if it isn't in the Housing Department questions, feel free to contact me and I'll look up the TMK info.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, get more clarity. And then Chair Lee, Member Kama, and then we're going to take a recess.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No la preguntas. . . .*(laughing)*. . . No more questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, I'm on page 551, Kohala Coast Urgent Care. It's zeroed out. What did we do for Koha--...Kohala Coast Urgent Care?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. Yes, several of the grants under OED, as Chief of Staff said earlier, we sort of looked at where they more appropriately belonged. So, Kohala Coast Urgent Care is under the Department of Human Concerns this year.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay. So, if I went to their budget...I mean, their budget page, I'd be able to see them? Okay. DHC, okay. And then the other question was on page 556, cultural and arts program. What is that for? What can we do with that money?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. That is a competitive grant pot that the community is welcome to apply for. In response to Councilmember Johnson's question, you'll see a full list of the grantees for Fiscal Year '25 to date, but it's ranged from smaller arts organizations to cultural organizations. I think we may have had some hālau funding, but I don't want to misspeak. But we'll be providing that full report with the Office of the Mayor letter that's forthcoming.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. LALLO: And I would add to that that those competitive grants are open now, and the first round is due at the end of the month. That's the deadline.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, so then I have another question. So, I attended the...the grant writing workshop last week Friday, and it seems like the...the dates are so close that it's like...so the people go to the workshop last week Friday, they have 30 days to do all of what's required, right? Their compliance, their DCCA, get all their stuff together, their physical sponsor. And it seemed like that the amount of time was not enough for people to get all that stuff together and still write their grant and submit it. So, is somebody going to take a look at that to see that how can we make it easier for our people to apply and not make it so burdensome that...you know who applies every year? The same old, same old guys. And all the new guys that are coming up, they come to us and they tell us what they're doing, the great work they're doing, but those are some of the barriers that they can't get over because they're so busy doing boots-on-the-ground work that, you know, for them to figure out to attend a workshop or do all of their paperwork with bylaws and stuff like that, it's difficult. So, how do we make it easier for our people who are doing the work in the community so that they can at least start getting some money for the work that they're doing?

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MS. LALLO: Thank you for that comment. We would be happy to take a look at the deadline and extend it as long as we're not bound by Code or --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. LALLO: -- something. But we'll take a look at it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. LALLO: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I just...I'm going to ask some...some questions, and then we'll take a recess and...and come back, and it sounds like we're still doing OED...oh no, sorry, we're still doing the Mayor's Office. So, I just want to...this is communication, right, that I think is important, and I don't know if you put out a message about when the OED Director left. You know how I found out she left? At the Upcountry Farmer's Market. So, I put up a booth once a month, and somebody came to visit us at the booth and said, oh, did you know that blah, blah, blah left, and the date, and I said, oh my God, I know that, you know, she was on leave and then whatever, and I...I was just like, oh my goodness, not good, right? And did you send out a communication, did I just miss it? Maybe I missed it.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question. No, we did not send out an announcement.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anyway, that was, to me, a little bit embarrassing that I should know, and circumstances are kind of interesting so it...it even made it more embarrassing that I didn't know. But anyway, I'm going to now take a recess, and we'll come back, and we'll do another round of questions. So, at this time then, I...if...where's my watch...so, we'll...we'll come back at 10:50. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 10:38 a.m.**  
**RECONVENE: 10:56 a.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. And it is now 10:56, and second round of...third round of questions. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Once again, I appreciate your concise answers, so this will be simple. You...we talked about the Open Space funds, and you said you had about three positions. Do you have names of these folks?

MS. LALLO: We are providing that in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

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MS. LALLO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great, that'll...that'll work. I'm going to pivot to something else, about the...on Lānaʻi, we have the First Hawaiian Bank that is now in our County possession. Are there any thoughts about putting the refurbished First Hawaiian Bank, as one the rooms could be an office for more services for Lānaʻi? Quite often, these folks on Lānaʻi, the...they're saying, hey, we...we need a grant writer, we need these positions here, folks, they...they have to travel to Maui. We heard it in the public hearing, they want to have County services on Lānaʻi. So, what...what say you...or what...what do you think, Miss...Ms. Lallo? Would that be something you'd consider?

MS. LALLO: Yeah, thank you for your question. Of course. It's my understanding the building needs a full assessment, structural assessment, but yes, of course.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Well, you can always use the Dis--...Lānaʻi District Office as well to put...house someone, which we have been doing a lot of work, you know, outside of our purview, but that...that office is totally available if you guys would like to put in a position in there because we really need a grants writer and...a grant writer position for Lānaʻi, ideally from OED, you know, someone who, you know, would be perfect for that. You...and what do you guys think on that?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question. I think that we will need to go and assess and see what the...the number of grantees and things like that go in relationship to the financial resource allocation on that, but we're certainly always available to help, whether that be virtually or on the phone. But I hear in person is the key to success.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Oh, sorry about that. In person is what my community is craving. I hear it left, right, and center, we're always left out in the cold, you know, we have to go Maui, by a boat, by a plane, all that stuff. So, if we can have services on Lānaʻi is really what I'm pushing for, so thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Done?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, it sounds like they're...we'll...we'll hear more, right? Okay, great. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else for Round 3? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just remembered one more question from my neighbor in Hāna, is Mrs. Kaina (*phonetic*), my retired math teacher. And so, she's a kupuna, and she...she always...she asked about...and...and on page 525, you mention outreach events, and she talked about you guys coming out in August to East Maui, but the kūpuna doesn't always have access to computers or to Instagram, so she was just requesting how does the Administration reach out to those people that don't always have...our Office tries to put up flyers and stuff like that at the post office, but some of these kūpunas don't always, you know, get to see some of these so just wondering if you

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guys had any ideas.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question. I think we'll have to work through your District Office in order to make that happen in relationship to flyers or even just, you know, town meeting announcements and things like that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: She's going to expect an answer from me when I get home.

MS. LALLO: Fair enough.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He's so funny. Is that it?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One question for your neighbor, okay. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I do have now another question. What's the ratio to grants application received to grant applications that are funded, and then how much money do you think we do in grants funding? I do see that we had an estimate in '25 of 13 million, and then next year's estimate is five.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for the question. Are you talking about grants received or grants allocated?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, allocated.

MS. LALLO: I am not sure what the ratio is between grants written and grants allocated, but I can get that information to you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. And just looking at the OED, it looks like a little over \$11 million this year for grants we're giving out.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook, do you have any further questions? Oh, he doesn't hear me. Member Cook, sorry, do you have any further questions?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't have any questions. Chair, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And I am listening and paying attention. I was reading --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I was reading something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. All right. Member Johnson, you had your turn, yeah? So, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. My next question is kind of following up on your line of questioning. Does the Administration...it doesn't go through the civil service process, you just hire, and so I was wondering, you know, when all of us came on, we had Code of Ethics training. Does the people that you bring on have training with the Board of Ethics, Code of Ethics?

MS. LALLO: Yes, thank you for your question. Yes, they do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then for the wedding industry engage summit, is there a portion of it about like, you know, our laws and how to do things legally? Every other time I turn around, my kid's at the beach, and wedding photographers are asking them to get out of the picture. I don't think that's legal.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for...for your comment. Yes, I think that that would be a key piece of the summit in relationship to engaging our community, what the laws and requirements are, and permits that are needed, et cetera.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, you know, they were saying the PGA we're investing 100,000...or the 20 million purse. What is it that...the economic revenue and who's heading up this item that we intend to see as a result of it?

MS. LALLO: I'm not quite understanding your question, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Who's...who's the money going to and what is the return on investment?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question. So, the funds will be allocated to the PGA, and that will be --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the wedding industry summit?

MS. LALLO: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Sorry, I...we thought you mentioned the Sentry tournament so that's why we got a little confused. The engage summit, that was actually a request we received from a working group that has been convened about the visitor industry in Maui County and how to refocus and revitalize. We're meeting with them tomorrow, but I think it will either be an open-application process for who will help to bring that event to life.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And could this money come out of the HTA promotion...or the...the visitor promotion bucket?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. We had sort of envisioned it as separate from the Tourism Management Grant because it's not really tourism management but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Unless you educate them about the rules and regs of weddings.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, absolutely, but I...I think if the body desires to reduce that, you know, we're...we're happy to have that conversation when it comes to deliberations week...or decisions week.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, for the wedding industry summit, that's just one of those economic drivers that the Mayor is trying to...to drum up in terms of the technology and, you know, his three priorities that he had. Is that right? Is that what he's trying to do, is trying to beef up some of these industries to be maybe an economic driver, not necessarily the engine, or vice versa?

MS. LALLO: Sure, thank you for your question. I would say that the wedding industry, while not a primary economic driver, like big le--...lever driver, I would say that it would be a secondary, and we are looking at what is successful already and trying to leverage the synergy and momentum about what's already successful.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, in this summit that...you're going to have a lot of wedding vendors, I guess, gather and talk about whatever it is they do at their wedding conferences. Who's going to make money out of that?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Councilmember Kama. I think it will be the venue that ends up hosting the summit will obviously receive some funding for their facilities and things like that. We don't know the specifics yet of whether vendors will be compensated for participation, that's obviously something we'd want to take into consideration. But I think primarily, it would probably be wherever the venue is...that is selected, and obviously, then we would collect TAT and GET on that as well.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, would the...shoot, I lost my train of thought now, but here, let me ask you another question. So, there is a person out there who...doing the OED snafu, never got payment for the films that he did and he's been talking to the Mayor's Office about that. Have you folks resolved that?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question. We have resolved several of the outlying issues. I think Priya actually just closed 11 out recently, so there were...there were several. In relationship to the particular project that you're talking about, we continue to be in

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conversation. The person who made the...the film was not the fiscal sponsor so the coordination between the...the...the filmmaker and the fiscal sponsor needs to...to align.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, so...but did the fiscal sponsor get paid?

MS. LALLO: They have not...we have not resolved that one yet.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, but is there a way to resolve the issues so that no matter who the fiscal agent is, that the vendor still gets paid?

MS. LALLO: Sure, we...Priya, actually, why don't you speak to this?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MS. LANDGRAF: Thank you. So, as Chief of Staff mentioned, we are working our way file by file to ensure that we are compliant and upholding to our fragile taxpayer dollars to justify use of the funds. We are committed to finding a way. So, with Finance, and Corporation Counsel, and our grant specialist team, again, just crossing the Ts, dotting the Is.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But would there ever be a time when somebody can actually make an executive decision or a judgment call and somebody could do that, who would that be?

MS. LANDGRAF: Do you mean to get the vendor paid?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. I mean, whoever...if Corp. Counsel says, hey, you guys can do this and you guys say, yeah, we can do this, and...who makes the call to actually get it done and to get that check on its way? . . .(timer sounds). . .

MS. LANDGRAF: I would say it's a team effort. Again, we want to make sure we're in compliance that the fiscal sponsor is upholding their responsibility of the application --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MS. LANDGRAF: -- and that we have the proper receipts and justification for the spend.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay, that makes sense to me. Okay, getting back to the wedding summit now. So, my question was will you know or do you know if the...the...the people who are hosting the summit will charge the vendors for attending the summit?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question, and that will have to be something that's determined when they apply for that money, so that information will come in at that time. I would say that the initial ask for the engaged event was approximately \$1 million, and so we decreased that significantly. So --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good to know.



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MS. LALLO: -- whomever it is that hosts that and...and facilitates that is going to have to get sponsors in order to seal the deal on it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good, thank you. So, I have a couple of questions. The Special Purpose Revenues fund of which Open Space is under the purview of the Mayor, and we recently had a request from Housing Department for...to put on a housing project and an Open Space purchased property that the County owns, and I just want to be sure that...I'm going to ask the Depart--...I mean, OCS to give you the tax map key, but it's the Nāpili project for Bigley, and that project, that money...I mean, I'm sorry, the land is...was purchased or given to the County for Open Space, and now we're saying we're going to use for housing. And before you can do that, you have to pay back the Open Space Fund, and I just want to say publicly that that needs to get done and I'm going to develop an ordinance so this doesn't happen again that we do, you know, that properly, and that we don't try to build...oh, let's build housing because County has all this land. It sounds like that's what happened. And Bill 33, we have first reading coming up, and I want to be sure that the Mayor's Office, or whoever's in charge, takes care of doing those kind of things correctly. And then in this budget, there's more money that you're giving to the same project, and it's still being on the wrong...I mean, it hasn't corrected the wrong from the beginning, that it's supposed to be Open Space Funds, not put on a housing project on what was supposed to be a park. So, publicly, I want to say that that is wrong, and that we pushed through the first reading, it was supported by this body, and we'll send you a letter just to give you the tax map key and the project, but it's...Bill 33 is...is what started that conversation. The other thing is as we're all talking, I got text message, right? So, parents who also have kids that go traveling, right, they want to know, why is the County only supporting Lānaʻi, Molokai, Hāna for...for travel for sports...youth sports, and why not everybody else, right? Because everybody else, as you know when you have kids, they go travelling to...to all over. The MIL one in the...is not set up. Is that what you're looking at? Yeah. So, that's not set up, and you...when Parks comes, we can ask them that question because I think that's...that actually was set up when Riki Hokama was sitting in your seat, and he set up this MIL fund, so it's been collecting money all these years. Yeah. But it hasn't been set up, and I think when I did speak with...it's not really this department, but when I did speak...but since you have it in...since you have travel in your budget, I just wanted to let you know that I would like to then broaden it out to not only Hāna, Molokai, and Lānaʻi. Do you have any thoughts?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, those line items were added in previous fiscal years by Councilmembers Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci specifically for those regions. If the Council would desire to support travel for other areas, I think we'd absolutely be open to that. I think ...*(timer sounds)*... we just want to have a discussion about would it be travel to the mainland, would it be travel to neighbor isla--...you know, what...what are we looking at so that we have some very clear guidelines that we can provide to the Office of Economic Development.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it could be, you know, whatever parameters to define it. But just to let you know, it's gotten attention of...you know, out on the island, I guess, on this island. The other item that is in...on page 553 of the program book, it talks about the West Maui Hospital, support development, and...oh, unmet needs for \$113,000. And I distinctly remember that when this item came up in Member Paltin's Committee that Managing Director was really specific when he said we are not into the health service business, right? He was so clear. That was his opening line. And so, I was surprised...not that there isn't a need, but is this a grant, and if so, who is it going to, and what is the intent of this appropriation, and how is the 113,000 going to support development? Because this certainly is a big project and 113,000 sounds like just a drop...half a drop in the bucket for what's really would be needed. Any comment from the Administration?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. After the discussions in Committee and at Council, we had several meetings with the West Maui Hospital Group. We asked them to submit a budget request so we could really see exactly what they were asking for because as you know, over the course, it was 20 million, it was 5 million, so we just weren't sure what they were asking for and what it was going to support. So, the budget request that we received was for \$113,000. That's for legal expenses, liability insurance, accounting costs, some marketing, and a philanthropic coordinator to help them develop resources for a private foundation. So, this would be a grant, it wouldn't be the County building a hospital, which I believe which was what Managing Director's concern was, but we're certainly supportive of the project in other ways. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, so interesting. So, this is to see if it can be done --

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- from what you received?

MS. MILNER: Yeah, my understanding is this is to start their capital campaign to begin to fundraise from other sources to start the project.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, in the communication you had with them, do they have State support? Because that's who does health.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. In this particular communication, they did not mention any State support. I'm happy to reach out and see what we can find.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you send that to them in writing, please? Okay. Yeah, because as you know, State does hospitals, right? So, if we start going down this path and there's no interest from the State, then what are we doing? I...I think we can do a clinic, you know, but not a full-on hospital. We have hard enough time finding our own health professionals, and for housing, and there's just so many things that are connected.

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So...all right. Anybody else have any questions? Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Last question. How...how does OED determine jurisdiction when it comes to our district funds?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. I would say there are two ways. I think it's where the work is occurring or where the organization is located are the two primary drivers of whether it's appropriate to be in that fund.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, if a hālau practices wherever they get to practice, sometimes you can't always go to the same space because somebody else is using it, but they have a PO box where all of their mail is sent in another district, technically where could that hālau be? In whose district could they be?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. I think we could look at the district where they receive their communications. I think we could look at the district that they consider to be...I don't know, their...their practice area. If we were to provide a grant to allow them to rent a space in a specific residency area for the next six months, I think that would be an appropriate use of the funds. So, I think we really try and take all of those things into consideration when determining whether it's appropriate or not. And of course --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. MILNER: -- I think OED will be reaching out to all of you on those funds as well to make sure that our priorities are in alignment.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And I want to thank OED for sending us all the breakdown. I think it was Cynthia Lallo. Thank you for sending us all the district breakdowns of what...what we have and what's in there. I wanted to ask about the Economic Re--...Economic Recovery Commission, whoever can answer this. It was something that OED and DBEDT was...had moved forward with 100 different businesses throughout the whole State starting from, you know, airlines to banks and...and hospital, everybody HMSA, Kaiser. And Nohe...and Member U'u-Hodgins and I were the only County Me--...Councilmembers invited, and everybody else came from the State. . . .(laughing). . . You could have come. No, I...it wasn't us to invite you. But anyway, and...and so they have...have finished their work and I've been trying to get the final report to share with the Members so that they will...there were 11 outcomes for that, and I understand that there is a request. The group that's doing the implementation raised 100,000, and they're looking for more, and I don't see it in your...in this budget. But I...I think the work has to start soon, so can anybody make a statement? I think they're...they're looking for half a million dollars to do implementation.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question, and also thank you for your work on that committee. I have the draft report --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. LALLO: -- and it is incredibly comprehensive, so thank you for that. I will say that the entity that is going to take over the facilitation of that effort actually reached out to us after the ink was dry on our budget for \$100,000. They had thought that they had private funding and it didn't come through as expected, so the only reason it's not in there is because is...the request was --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: After?

MS. LALLO: -- was after, correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. LALLO: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...so...

MS. LALLO: I would...I'm so sorry. I...I would also say that a majority of the things, if not, all of them in the ERC report is also in the long-term recovery report and implementation, so we have to take a look at those reports together in relationship to the actual implementation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the final ERC is not the final ERC then? We're going to get something else, is that what you just said?

MS. LALLO: Well, we have a long-term recovery plan that's already been released, and most of the stuff that's in that ERC report also sits in the long-term recovery plan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the ERC Commission, the 11 groups, they were broken up into 11 harbors, all kind of different things, right, and each one came up with projects. So, you're not going to honor that, is that what I just heard you say?

MS. LALLO: No, no, what I'm saying is those projects that are listed are also listed in the long-term recovery plan. So, the ERC report --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is duplicated?

MS. LALLO: -- was...was included in the long-term recovery plan. Obviously, the final isn't out so I can't say for certain whether everything in that ERC, because I don't have it, is in the long-term recovery plan --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thanks --

MS. LALLO: -- but that's where it sits.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for that clarification. All right. Members, anybody else have any more questions? Seeing none. All right. Oh, Member Rawlins--...I'm sorry, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's not for the Office of the Mayor, it's for you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The 4:30 deadline today, were you going to share with us what was being submitted so that if we like it, we don't have to propose our own ranges?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, this is for the real property tax. It sounds like we have to handle it --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The range of rates?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The ranges...handle that carefully because of Sunshine. Shall we ask legal for that?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, apologies. So, for the budget calendar, we have to prepare the resolution for the Clerk's Office to begin the public hearing posting process. We...we don't have a developed proposal yet because we were...Staff was going to develop the proposal based on what Members submitted so if there were no submissions, then we would work with Chair to develop something. So...so, we don't necessarily have anything to share at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, no, but the question was can we talk about it jointly or know what everybody is submitting so they don't have to...I think that's a Sunshine problem, yeah, that we have to follow.

MR. KRUEGER: I could...if I could ask the Committee attorneys to weigh in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you understand the question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the other question, is there a legal range? Like what if we say plus or minus \$20 from the Mayor's proposal, is that legal?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Deputy Director or...do you want us...do you want us to...you want us to come back to it? You can answer? Okay.

MR. HANANO: Yeah, as far as formally considering what the ranges are, that has to be done, you know, on the record here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On the record?

MR. HANANO: On...on the record here because, well, when...when...at that appropriate time, but that has to be, you know, done in open session. There can't be any conferral off the record as far the ranges.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, main thing, we're talking about it now, not after she gavels out, is that what you're saying?

MR. HANANO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then is it legal to put plus or minus \$20?

MR. HANANO: Yeah, that's...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, why don't we let them --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess in some cases, if we --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- let them research this. I'm going to excuse --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- do minus . . . *(inaudible)*. . . we owe people money.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the Mayor's Office. And thank you very much for being here and --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For owning property, yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- hard job, and I hope...I hope Chief of Staff Lallo, that you have a lot of people helping you because every time there's a vacancy, I think, oh, it's going to be Cynthia. Yep, sure enough, it's going to be Cynthia. Thank you very much, and thank you very much, Budget Director. We have Personnel that's going to be on next, but before...before we take on Personnel, let's answer this question. So, I'm going to excuse you, and at the meantime, we'll just have this discussion with our attorneys, and if not, we can come back to it. And I...if I understand your question correctly, you want to know if...because today at 4:30, the range of rates for the real property tax is due, and what you're asking is can we just share the information of what everybody is thinking and not --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and to clarify, it's due to you folks, it's not due to the clerk so that you can work on the Reso.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I thought they said as long as we talk about it during open session, it's...it's part of the budget, which is BFED-1. I mean, I feel like I've been focusing on reading the budget so much that I haven't had a chance to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- formulate thought-out logical range of rates, and I'd be open to, you know, a small discussion on it. And then like something that you said last year like how Member Johnson wanted to change the ag rate, and then you fixed it, and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- then why do we have the have the deadline be today?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What we did was we...oh, if I could.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What we did was when we started taking up all of the RPT, what Mem--...oh, Member Johnson, you should say what you wanted, but with my interpretation was he wanted to put in tiered rates for Ag, but it wasn't in there and we had already published...with this document that's going to be due today, the Reso, we published that at the appropriate time. Staff can tell you what date it's going to get published, but then it becomes like everything else we do, right? It's public information, this is what the --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- range that we're looking at. So, that's --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- we wanted to tier a thing, we'd need to propose it by 4:30 today?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are...are you ready with your thing from last year?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: For the tier...tiering of Ag rates, yes, I'm ready. If you want, I can give you my suggestion right now on the record or I can wait, whatever you guys choose.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I think...go ahead. Oh, in writing? We need it in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, in writing. We'll...we'll have it at 4:30 in addition to if you want me to say it on the floor, I can say it on the floor.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He's ready. Not like last year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, the range of rates that you want in writing at 4:30 has to include any changes in tiers or additions of tiers and all of that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's the idea, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And is there a format, or just as long as it's legible?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's...according to...I would imagine you're going to just fill in the blank of the Reso, which I don't have the Reso right here. You know, it's the same...well, can you share with her?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess, what number on Granicus was the format?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Here. It looked like --

MR. KREUGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It looked like this.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This one, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The last one in the bills?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, the one...the one that...March 25th, MC-04, due April 1 at 4:30. Oh, sorry. Can you guys hear me? Yeah, MC-04.

MR. KREUGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

MR. KREUGER: It's number 42 in Granicus.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Does that satisfy your question, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes, thank you. I'm --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- very satisfied right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . She...she wants to...here, we can take Personnel and leave.



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you say it again, was it 42?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Number 42 in Granicus.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Our Office also proposing or submitting a proposal for tier structures for nonowner-occupied and short-term rentals.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yep.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else, Members? Okay, Member Kama is also. All right. So, we can...we're all good, right, with the real property due 4:30 and sub--... please submit it to Staff, and we'll get that ready for posting or we'll hear more. Okay, now we have Personnel to take on. It is 11:29, and you want to break for lunch or you...would you like to take up Personnel? Shall we take up...shall we take up Personnel? Your call. Take up Personnel? Sinenci says yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I do have to pick up my children at 2. I would like to continue to go forward. Maybe we can take a quick lunch, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- I'm on bus duty.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I can relate to that. I miss those days. Are you okay, Mister...Member Cook? Member Cook, you're fine? We'll continue. I guess majority will continue, right? Okay. Call Personnel. They're not here, they're waiting, I guess. Very good. You all are doing so good, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're very well behaved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, well behaved. Wait until we get to decisions. That's...that's when the fun begins. Okay, so while we're...while Personnel is coming down, they did respond...what? Oh, okay. So, Staff wants to give an update on the letters that they sent out --

MS. SZABO: Members --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- or in general.

MS. SZABO: -- I...I over...I over spoke when we said that the letters would be completed today, so I just wanted to recap to the Members that we still are working through several letters,

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and that we plan to finish over the next couple days and we'll prepare a summary to...to let the Members know the status.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I have one other question for you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Appendix A, Part II that we were handed out this morning --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if we replace that one from the other one, can we throw the other one for recycling?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're saying from the book that doesn't have the --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The red words, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- red ink? The red words. So, they're just telling you who's in charge basically.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we don't need the previous one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you don't need what was in there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then if we're working off the Ramseyered Appendix B --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I always throw my...yeah, I always --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You throw it away?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- keep the Ramseyered, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you throw away the not Ramseyered one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Other side. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because it's a lot. My back, there's a lot of things to carry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . A lot of papers. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, just making sure that I can recycle that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, and there's a recycle bin right outside my door.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Perfect.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: My office. Okay, so while they're coming, I will let you know that I heard from Ka'ahumanu Church, Kahu Higa, who...who is...all of us who are on this side, we look at their church every day, right? And he said that they have secured Bowers + Kubota to help them with their renovations, and...and they are having a lot of success now. In the past, we have given them two rounds of two years with some funding, small kine just so that they can figure out what they need to do really for the steeple. But their funding request that they're going to ask for the Mayor is like 2-point-something million, and they're working with the Mayor, so...2.7 million. Wow. But the church needs a lot of help. So, just trying to fill time. Anybody else want to talk while we're waiting?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I...did they already ask for that from the Mayor?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think they have another meeting. They...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But the Mayor already gave their budget to us, and it's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- not in there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- it's not in there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, oh, oh. Okay, got it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, but I love that church, right? Or we all do. I...I told my husband, oh, one day if I have to get married again, let's get married in that church. Anyway...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: One...one other question. What date is the most recent calendar that we're working off of?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good one.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is...is it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: March 18th was the one I have, but do you know --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There's one on March 25.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, but that one only has the departments.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It doesn't have all the rest.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, March 18th?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: March 18th is the one.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good question. Thank you for joining us again, Personnel. So, while they're getting situated, we'll do three minutes per round. And if you look in Granicus...what do we have in Granicus for them? Do you have what page...what...what they are in Granicus? It's PS...yeah. Oh, I have PS-25. I have PS-25. You got it? Is PS-25 the most recent?

MR. KREUGER: So, Chair, we...we do have PS-1, which is number 25; there's PS-2, which is number 36; and PS-3, which is number 62.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are...are all of them responded to?

MR. KREUGER: Only PS-1 and PS-2 are responded to. PS-3, that...that's the last letter that went out with the Members' questions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's 25 in Granicus. All right. Wow, we're going to...we're going to do this and go home and celebrate and have birthday party, right, Nohe? Okay. All right, so we'll start...you want to start from your side, Member Kama, and head down to Me--...Member Sinenci, or shall we start the other way? Okay. Member Sinenci. Your mic.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. On page 626 for goal number 1, to provide hiring departments with eligible candidates in a timely manner, and so for this fiscal year, you have proposed the number of applications received as 10,000 applications. Do you keep all of these applications on file, or you...what do you do with these applications?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Chair? Thank you. Thank you for the question. So, we have an applicant tracking system, so yes, we maintain all the applications on file.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Are you...are you...

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, your mic.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Do you send them out to the departments?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, in our written response, we will provide you with kind of like what's considered recruitment-conducted. So, we accept applications, part of our responsibilities are to screen these applications for...or meeting minimum qualifications. And so, only those candidates that meet the qualifications are added to an eligible list, and then those names are forwarded to the department.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you. Do you have a percentage of hirees, like how many hires department...for the different departments?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: We could provide that breakdown. But --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- in FY 2024, there were 704 hires.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, nice.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Of this number, 359 were considered seasonal hires, so they're PALS positions.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then for your goal 2, you mentioned for last year, you had 6,000 training classes. Who...who conducts those trainings? And for this fiscal year, you have proposed 5,000 of those trainings.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, the number of training courses offered is a combination of in-person training that we offer and LinkedIn learning courses that are offered. That number, training classes attendance, that 6,000 and 5,000, that's a goal that we, you know, promote courses to employees. We encourage attendance to these. The first day of every month, we send out a Countywide email kind of, you know, with a theme and some courses that we recommend suitable for just the general population.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you, Direc--...thank you for responses. Thank you, Chair.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member U'u-Hodgins, then Member Cook. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Thank you for being with us today.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Glad to be here.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I'm going to kind of follow up what Member Sinenci was asking a little bit of your goal, number 1, section 2, where it says, application received. So, in 2024, we had 8,513 applications received, we estimate this year and next year to be 10,000 for both, and we had 400ish, 359 seasonal employees for PALS. But that's still a pretty huge delta and we have a huge vacancy, so can you tell me why some of these applicants are not hired, do you...are they just unqualified, or what's some of the issue with hiring with 8,000 applications?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, a number of applicant...so, that's not a unique 800 --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: 8,000.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- 8,500 applicants. So, many of those are repeat appliers, so --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: They're not unique applications?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- they're not unique, right.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Got it, okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Well, people, right?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yes, yes, yes.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: They're...they apply for, you know, a dozen positions or something like that. So, it could...we did run a report and our guesstimate...like that fluctuates, right? But it's one-third of that number are, you know re--...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Actual applications?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Well, one-third is repeat appliers. So --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, repeat appliers.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- maybe 5,000, you know, applicants in Fiscal Year 2024.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Of that number, you are correct, some people are not qualified. Of that number, some people are interviewed and not selected. Of that number, some people...but at the point where the department's, you know, interviewing, they're no longer interested in the job.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: We...we have lots of those, not...not a fit.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Majority of the departments have expansion E/Ps except for maybe one department. How long do you think it's going to take you folks to work with these departments and come up with their description and get these people to the point where they're ready to hire, these people that are going to be hired and the departments?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, that really depends. So, we have 800...approximately 800 classes of work currently. So, if these new classes, new expansion positions that they're wanting to...to create or...you know, expansion positions, we can get that pretty much up and running, you know, as soon as we can get their position description.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. And then in your opening statements, you were talking about \$300,000 for the review of your folks' admin rules for professional services and a consultant. Is that to help expedite maybe some of the hires and...because that's kind of what we've been hearing.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: In a nutshell.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay, cool. I've said this so many times, as we are all anticipating . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . a recession in the upcoming months, and one of the few jobs that offer stability is Government employees, and with 700 vacancies, I really do hope we can expedite it and we can give our community some financial stability in the upcoming few years, that we can depend on our people to do some work that we're going to need done. Thank you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. All right. Member Cook, then Member Johnson, Paltin, Lee, then Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for our Director. Thank you all for being here today. The minimum requirements that you...you have minimum requirements, like basically when somebody applies, you cross reference whether they meet the minimum requirements?

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MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Are those minimum requirements reviewed by the various department heads, and do they...are they on the same page that they're...what they're looking for and what you're measuring are the same?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Essentially, yes. We do get into, you know, questions with departments. So...so, recently, the Housing Administrator position was recruited for, and when we looked at, you know, the qualifications for the position, we shared it with the new Housing Director. And there was some adjustments being made because we were like, these are the candidates that are not qualified because they lack, you know, these additional qualifications. You know, the more experience requirements we add to a position, the smaller the window and door gets for people to enter, and so we were able to amend those qualifications to let more candidates through.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. When...when the County of Maui, when you do hire...approve and a person is hired, is there a probationary period?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes, six months.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay, so during the probationary period, if they don't meet the required cap--...capability, then they are what?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Released.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, that...the reason I ask that is it seems like there is built-in flexibility to...instead of narrowing and narrowing, broadening and broadening --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- so that we could fill the positions and see how well they work, and then basically be able to release them if they don't as opposed to don't let anybody in the door because they're not going meet...make it, but we're going to even give them a chance. How much in your review process is a person's soft skills involved at all? Is it just what they got on paper or when you interview them, they have good communication skills, they're present, they're enthusiastic, does that carry any weight?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, the minimum qualification requirements are rather specific, so if they don't demonstrate that on paper that they meet the minimum qualifications, they'll probably be rejected.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: We do...so, if they're...you know, if we can dig a little deeper, our staff will reach out, they'll communicate with them and say, you know, it looks like you have these qualifications, you know, we're looking...we're...we quantify this information.



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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So...so my --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- my next question, kind of in closing because we're running out of time, is it within your department's preview [sic] to modify minimum requirements? Where do those come by? And are they the same on all the counties and every place, or does Maui County have their own minimum requirements that you determine?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, HRS 76-1, eq---there's an equal pay for equal work position, and so generally when classes are created, minimum qualifications are somewhat standard. . . .(timer sounds). . . We do have some flexibility, and we have recently in the past kind of adjusted that to, you know, kind of expand a little bit, and, you know, we've amended the class specs and the MQs to allow for that. You know, like I said, we have 800 classes, so that would, you know, take a little bit of time to kind of address areas like that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. I think I heard the bell, so I'll wait for my next round. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair, and good morning. Thank you for joining us. I really appreciate it.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, my question...I'm just going to jump right into the questions.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What were the results of the FY '25 recruitment and retention campaign? How much of the...well, I won't read...read the index code, but how much was used for this campaign and what...what did it pay...pay for? Will the professional service funding continue to be used for the same purpose in the next year, and if so, what amount and what is the spending plan? And that's on page 629 of the budget, or page 18-5 in budget details.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, the \$300,000 that we're asking for is for the professional...additional funding to hire a consultant to do the review of our existing administrative rules, policies. As far as the recruitment and retention campaign --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- I understand that 150,000 of that money was spent. However, I guess

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there's a little bit of confusion, so our money lapsed, and so the money came from the Mayor's Office budget is what I recall.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, the...so, the 150 was spent, and what was it spent on?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, a website was created, the Work Maui Nui website. We got some videos, some promotional videos. They updated all of the brochures.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, that money was spent, you got the web portal, you've got the...the flyers. Can....reflect on it. How did it...did it work? Did you get an increase in folks coming?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I...I --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Would you...would you do it again?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I think we saw an increase in applications, and, you know, it kind of gave us some kind of public imaging, I think, that we were lacking --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- before. We heard lots of comments of like, oh, I never thought of working for the County. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, how...that the anecdotal side, how about the actual data?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Did the numbers go up, did the applications go up?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: The numbers went up maybe like 10 percent over that period of time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: You know, the...the...the contract started like right like when the fires happened, so there was kind of some of that that may have discouraged people or encouraged people. It was kind of hard to put our finger on it, just --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, that...that goes...that leads to the...the...really, the point of my question is that post-fire, a lot of people are unemployed, so did the actual hiring go up? Like the applications might have gone up 10 percent, but do we actually get people from this?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I believe we've made some progress, yes, with filling vacant positions.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you have any numbers?

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MS. RAZO-PORTER: We...so --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Or you can give it back to me in writing.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah, we can give it back to you in writing, but we...we just pulled a report this morning that's in FY 2025, and I...we can get the number for FY 2024, but we created 101 new positions in this current fiscal year that we're in. So, you know, we keep adding to that . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- that va--...that vacancy pot.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I see what you're saying. Okay. My time's up. Thank you for that.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin, then Chair Lee, and Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Razo--...Director Razo-Porter. Do you know the oldest position description you have on file, what year it was created?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: That's a great question. I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because I don't think anyone had a cell phone like in the '90s, like, you know, a smartphone at least, like --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and from what I heard, other jurisdictions are moving away from minimum qualifications and focusing on core competencies. Is that something that you would be open to?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If somebody is in their initial probation period and their supervisor thinks, man, this person is awesome and they're stuck in like a Secretary I position, can they move up before their probationary period ends?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No. I mean, they could apply for an open position, but they should finish their initial probation because that allows a regular civil service employee to move.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did...the Managing Director, I gave him some informational

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material that Member Sugimura, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, and myself brought back from NACo on WBCP, their public procurement, they...because they're through NACo, you wouldn't have to go through procurement. Has he shared those materials with you?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I did not receive any.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would you have to go through an RFP process for that 300,000?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah, so I was under the impression that we would, and then I did read your question and, I mean, is it you know, available to us because we're members, or is it, you know, we don't have to go through the procurement process? So, that...those were questions that I had.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, and I mean, I guess they've gone through the County of San Diego and helped with them. They said with AI now, they can do position descriptions in like an hour and they can do reorganizations and things like that, and it wouldn't need to go through a procurement process. So, I don't know if you want to try and ask the Managing Director...like it has...there was a box and there was three different flyers. I think you can Google WBC --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I did. I did do that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. And then do you have a list...like, you know, if we have how many Countywide vacancies, a certain number, and then are you consulted at all about like for this fiscal year, the proposed...number of proposed expansion positions, and then from there, the number of proposed expansion positions that may not have a class spec? Like, I think Department of 'Ōiwi Resources wants to come up with a Chief Hawaiian Cultural Specialist. My thoughts are that would be a little bit more involved than somebody having a Secretary III or an Office Administrator, whatever. How long would it take like from the idea of we're going to provide a Chief Hawaiian Cultural Specialist through to posting the recruitment and what are the steps?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay. So, in...the first step is to create a position description. Departments create their position descriptions based on, you know, their needs. And, you know, they submit it to us. Typically, we ask departments to work with us, like, you know, share that information, what...you know, what role is this person filling, ...*(timer sounds)*... and we would, you know, then start doing our research. Maui...County of Maui is the only jurisdiction as far as I know that has like a Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, so I'm going to say that we don't have an existing class. And so, it doesn't necessarily make it harder, it's just kind of being in communication with the department and understanding like what exactly this position's roles and...role and responsibilities are. And then, you know, is it minimum qualifications, is it...you know, what are the core competencies since we were talking about that, is just kind of developing that. And we don't do that, you know, just because we're so smart and brilliant, like we work with the Department to tell us like what are the requirements that this person needs to possess in order to, you know, operate in this position. And so, as far as months, it really just depends on, you know, the...the feedback that we get from

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the Department, you know, are they in communication with us, you know, just kind of delving into that --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- area of research.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I'm...I'm looking for the...the steps. You said position description, the department would either make it or work with Personnel to do it, you guys would do research. How do we get from there to posting the recruitment?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, once a classification is established for the class, then we can create a posting and...and accept applications.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I heard the bell. I'll come back around.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. Next, we have Chair Lee, then Vice-Chair Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi, Cynthia.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, how many vacancies, again, did you say we have currently?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Do we have that number? We just ran that report. So, we have 667 vacancies.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 667, okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: One...one moment, though. Forty-four of those vacancies exist in the County Auditor, the County Clerk, and County Council. So, we would take that out, and that leaves 600 --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Excuse me, 44, the County Auditor, the County Clerk, and who?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: County Council.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We don't have any that I know of. Maybe we might have one vacancies.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, no, no, I'm saying the va--...the main vacancies must be in the Auditor's and the Clerk's Office. That's all I'm saying.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And even the Clerk, they don't have 44 people. So, anyway, I...I'm...I'm thinking a lot of these are seasonal for the Clerk's Office.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Just for that clarification because we did not contribute to the problem.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No, we...you know, that number drives, you know, part of the discussion, so --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, see, because we don't drive the same car or road as the Administration because if we had 667 less 44 vacancies, we wouldn't ask for more positions. We're not like that, so we don't --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- go down that road. Okay, so what I'm going to ask you now is you mentioned one of the reasons why you have a hard time keeping up is because you dealt a huge vacancy rate and at the same time, more and new and...positions are added, yeah? So, don't you ever stop and tell them, hey, don't you think you folks should fill the positions first before you give us new positions, or redescribe some of the positions that you can't fill? Do you ever have that conversation with the Administration?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: We have had that conversation with departments.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And do they listen? I guess not. Something's wrong. So...so, obviously, there's a disconnect here. They probably don't know your challenges, and you probably don't know their challenges, I'm guessing. So, is it possible --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: That would be fair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- possible to sit down and figure...figure out the solution to this? I mean, this is unsustainable, you know?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's costing --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Agreed.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- us a lot of money to have vacancies in the first place, yeah? And when you have vacancies at...of this scale, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . this magnitude, you can't possibly complete the projects you're proposing. Who with, people you don't have, you know?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, that's...that's our dilemma. We're...we're looking at this unfold and we can't believe it. And I used up my time, so thank you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. So, continuing with what Chair Lee was asking, so what percent of the workforce is the 620-something positions?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, I did a number. I don't have it off the...you know, the actual number, but the last time I did run the number, it was like 18 percent vacancy rate.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, that's...we're missing 18 percent of our workforce?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Essentially, yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, 18 percent of the work that should be going on is not going on, pretty much?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I think...I think it's going on, it's just people are stretched. You know, we're focusing on the most highest priorities and maybe not, you know, getting to the other stuff that we should as quick as we should.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, 18 percent of some of the work's not getting done. Okay. I just wanted to understand that because that means a lot of people in the County are doing their job and somebody else's, and maybe somebody else's, just like somebody else was sitting in that chair this morning, right? How...that's not sustainable.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right? Mentally, healthwise, it's not good.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, then my next question is how actively are we recruiting to fill the positions that we are in need of? Where are we getting these people from? Where do we recruit from? What...how many platforms do we use to let people know out there that these are the people that we need?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, governmentjobs.com is our applicant tracking system called NEOGOV. We also post recruitments on LinkedIn. We do job boards. We have...and it really just depends, but we do recruitment like on...on radio. Sorry, I couldn't think of that. And so, you know, promoting it by word of mouth, promoting it within departments, promoting it with, you know, just social media I guess is the best way to...to round it out. But we've created, you know, brochures that we give to people. We

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encourage departments to, you know, when you see people working in the...in the community, you know --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...so, taking those things into consideration, so how...how do we go about informing our community that we are looking for these types of skills for our workforce? I mean, just saying that the County has these openings is one thing, but people out there could be thinking, ah, I don't qualify, I don't qualify. But how do we...how do we entice them to at least . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . come and take a bite, or come and take a peek, or just come look, come see? How do we do that?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Chair? So, May 15th at Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center, we are hosting a County of Maui career expo, and every department will be there. We are going to promote it as a one-stop recruitment event. And maybe not for every position granted, but we are trying to get people, passive candidates, you know, people actually looking for a job to come out and discover the kinds of positions that the County has, you know, and their career opportunities.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I'm going to come back for another round or two.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I have a question.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Over the past, I don't know, three, four years, I've been putting in an incentive for the 911 dispatchers. And so, I know they're under the Police Department, and I've talked to HGEA. Why can't we...they're Bargaining Unit 3, that's clerical, and there's no way that they're clerical. I mean, it doesn't look like it with the kind of job...you know, with the wildfires and what they did to save lives and in general, but how can you help them, Police Department, or what needs to happen to get their...their...in...into the co---...I don't know how you say correct bargaining unit, but get them into the correct place that they need to be as first responders --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's where Ocean Safety used to be, Bargaining Unit 3.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if they...if the State Legislature lets them create their own unit, then they can get raises. That's what happened to Ocean Safety, because we used to get clerk pay too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, my God. So, just so you know, we tried that, right, the Legislature, and we were told we couldn't because Maui's situation --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think we need to reelect some guys. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Maui has a...the way that we do 9...the 11...911 dispatchers like Kaua'i is different from Honolulu and --



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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, it's three islands that's why.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I think Honolulu...yeah, and Big Island. So, therefore, what can we do? Can you help them? I talk to Chief every year about this.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Uh-huh. So, as Councilmember Paltin mentioned, the Leg really is the...the one that creates bargaining units, and I mean, I guess we could, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Don't vote for incumbents.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- go...go... . . .*(laughing)*. . . I mean, the...you know, it's...it's, you know, reaching out to them and kind of putting it on their radar.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Director, we tried that --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and I was...I was right there trying to change the bargaining unit, and we were told cannot, and they dropped it. And that they...they said that what we need to do is work with you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And if...I mean, if...if I...I think if I try to take your...do that kind of thing is the wrong thing, but there must be...there must be a way of doing it. These...they're so underpaid for 911 dispatchers, and the work they're doing is...it's...there's a huge discrepancy.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Well, they do --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you help them?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- they do have...so Bargaining Unit 3 is white collar...clerical I believe is the title of the Bargaining Unit 3, and there's...you know, it's...it's a large pool.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's a hodgepodge.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: It's a...yeah, it's...it's one of the largest bargaining units. We got...I guess we'll kind of have to see. I'm not familiar with the process of, you know, going to the Leg and asking for a --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I don't know...no, the Legislature said not them. That door is closed for that particular 911 dispatchers for Maui --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- is what I'm trying to tell you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And so, what they said . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . was that we need to work with you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay. So, we advocate --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- for them because that's where it is in the law. It's in...HRS, you know, identifies the different bargaining units.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're not getting me.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No, I get you, but I'm just saying they're saying it's...it's me, but it's in the law that creates a bargaining unit, so I --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's like the homeless situation.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Can we do --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so we're not communicating. Next person had a question. Anybody? Member Sinenci, no. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'm okay for right now. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook, then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I guess following up on that a bit, what is your discretionary authority within the...and I don't know all the proper terminology, but how much, if any, discretionary authority do you have? The challenge that I see is we have all of these unfunded positions and it's a very...and it's a challenging and dysfunctional situation. What we need is assertive leadership. I would like to see you push the envelope and so you're jeopardizing your job, you're working so hard to make people get hired and make people get more pay, and I think people will cheer you on.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Because that conversation right there really demonstrates, it's like we need someone in Department of Personnel Services who's like, we need to hire people. How are we going to hire them? We're not paying them enough. How can we pay them more? What are the options? What are the other islands doing? What can we do, okay? We've had this conversation...I...this is my third time, you know, and I'm just...I propose for hiring, a cheap way to hire is put a really big banner that says County of Maui hiring and phone number, you probably have to get a variance from the Planning Department,

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but we can put it on the Trask Building, we can put it on this building. And I'm not joking. I mean if we really want to hire people and get the word out and be aggressive, but we need to be like when they walk in your door or they fill out that application, that we are ready to process it. And I...I...I encourage you to lean heavily on the probationary period aspect, okay? You're letting them in, letting them in, letting them in, hiring them, and let the departments train them, work with them, and tell them they're not suited. So, it's not really a question, but...what...give me some feedback.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay, feedback. So, I appreciate what you're saying, and I will lean heavily on the departments, but we don't hire. We hire for our department. And so, departments will have to make those kinds of hiring decisions, and I encourage you to have that same conversation with every department that sits here.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The feedback I've gotten from the department is Department of Personnel Services is the gatekeeper and the bottleneck.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: They don't get to see...they...people aren't going to Water Department saying, are you hiring. People aren't going to Public Works and saying, are you hiring?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right. No, that's true, they come through us, but we do give them eligible lists. I mean --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Get me, don't take it personally. I know...I know --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I'm...I'm not going to take it personally.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- you...you have a tough position, and you and everybody in your office come to work every day, and I recognize, and I just say you're doing your best with what you got. What we can do to run interference, I mean, walk for you --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum. Um-hum. Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- I think that we all would.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum. No, I appreciate that. I will take your message to the department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, before I call on Member Johnson, all the banners that we saw outside, we're hiring, I mean, there's...we hired a consultant to try to do that. Obviously, it didn't work. Good idea. If you go to graduation, the Mayor is saying, okay, all of you at Maui Community College, come and work for the County, we have 700 vacancies. So, I don't know what we're doing wrong, but we could do more, but just wanted you to say --

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- it's not like they haven't tried or there isn't --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: May I, Chair? One of the things we're doing wrong is we don't...we have really low pay. And so if we have this many job descriptions, if we could make this many job descriptions and this much low pay disappear, and I know that's basically...that's what I mean, I don't know how flexibility you have, but to hire somebody at the lowest basic position and have them...this is what I've heard in the past, correct me if I'm wrong --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- going to hire them here and then they can like work their way up, okay?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And everybody else goes up.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That...that obviously doesn't work. So, I mean, it's like... But I don't know, we want to pay --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry I interrupted you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- we want to pay more.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, collective bargaining. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: A rising tide lifts all boats, so I'm in full support of...of better pay for our workers. Okay, that being said, have you targeted any of the Federal workers that have been laid off? I...I...there...are you...I don't know if anybody knows this but I'll just put it on this record, USDA just got closed on Maui and I have to go to Lānaʻi to get my little fire ant sticker on my...on my trees, no USDA office. So, have you guys looked into...into that?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, we have 24 candidates that applied. I don't know that they've been actually laid off, but we have Federal employees that are applying, so yes, we are --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, that's --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- pursuing that .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I love the fact that they came and applied, but --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- are we targeting them? Are we looking...I...I...I was on the mainland and I saw that...ads everywhere, hey did you get laid off by DOGE? Well, come

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work for the State, come work for the County.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum. Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's like, oh, that's...I love that idea, you know? So, it sounds like they're just coming to us, we're not reaching out to try to grab them?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I think there was going to be an initiative to kind of promote it, but I haven't seen it just yet.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. I would support that initiative, Director. You know, here's...we had some anecdotal stories. I...I know a guy, he's got a college degree, applied for over 20 times for Maui County --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- and has gotten denied. And then it gets into this term...and I don't mean to use it on you or anything...but the gatekeeping. Like there's something in the chain that is stopping a college graduate, 20 times. You got to at least...at least give him the tenacity part of it. Maybe it might not be that particular job, but he sure wants to work for the County. But presently now, he did find a spot, but, you know, it's just amazing to me --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: In the County?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Oh, okay. Good. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Just checking.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Twenty-one was the one that...you know, I...I just think...okay, so getting back to the pay. You know how...we see some success in some of the departments. The Department of Ag is using the higher steps, right? And they're getting...they're catching the fish. You have the right bait for the fish, right? So, I know you say that it's like really the...each individual department's, you know, has a say in that, but what say you to increa--...hiring them at a higher step?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, different departments have recruiting incentives. We allow...you know, we're a public sector agency, you know, so we do, you know, ask departments to submit a request to approve a...request approval to higher above the min, and so we go through this process. We do recruit above the min for...for many positions. Typically, it's because we've recruited in the past and, you know, there's been difficulty to fill. So, there are, you know, things in the toolbox to kind of help utilize some of those different incentives. We do work with departments that, you know, maybe don't have a recruitment incentive...okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry, my time's limited, so let me just rephrase it like this. Can...are you...would you support across the board...so we don't have to say department

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by department. Like look at Department of Ag, they're doing steps, and they're hiring above the min, and they're getting people. Can we just do it across the board? Would you...would you consider that?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Can I consider that? . . . *(laughing)*. . . I...you know, I mean, it all...it all boils down to money and do departments have sufficient funds and all of those things, so --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, if you look at the --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- I'm open to it, let's just say.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, you're open?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I'm open to it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I like that because when you look at this year's budget, we're kind of flush, and all those positions --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- if we could just make...just like what Councilmember Cook was saying, lower the number of positions offered but raise the pay so you don't have to look at 600 empty...empty desks. That'd look just...I mean, talk about disheartening. And who's doing the other work? Everybody who's unfortunately --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Showing up.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- got the job so they have to do more, you know? Anyways, I hope I'm preaching to the choir, and I hope you consider what we are saying. Thank you, Chair.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. You know, some of the financial barriers to getting a job with the County of Maui is like...so, I know a park security officer that got a security job. In the amount of time it took Personnel to even accept his application, he went outside and he got another job on the outside. So, if you have financial constraints, you can't wait for the department to accept your application, close the posting, get an interview, go through the whole entire process. And then it's been a while since I did the . . . *(indiscernible)*. . . do the people...they have to pay that upfront, right, out of pocket. So, even to try and get a job, you have to pay for your medical testing, you have to pay for all this testing before you even get your first paycheck. And then if you don't get the job, you're out like a grand, whatever?

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MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, I know that some departments reimburse, but, you know, procurement issues preclude us from, you know, just paying for it. And maybe that will be, you know, a change in policy in practice, but I do know that some departments reimburse, you know, once they pass the test and they're hired.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Who is in charge of the DM-89 process? Is it you folks or the departments?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, departments request...typically, the DM-89 process requires that we're recruiting to fill a position, and they ask for a warm body today, and so we'll sign off.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, they could do that for all the positions they have vacant, or what...what...that are...they have vacant that are in recruitment?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you know, if you have someone that needs a paycheck in two weeks, what's the harm of that? What...why wouldn't they do that?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Typically, it's...a lot of the people that we want are already employed and they won't leave their job to take a maybe job with the County.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then...

MS. RAZO-PORTER: But I...I will share that we do have DM-89 positions, and we do sign DM-89s.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, that would kind of work for all the national dislocated worker grant folks that were told your last day was Friday, right? I mean --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and all the other laid-off folks from the Federal Government, you could do a DM-89 for those folks. Do people indicate that they're looking for a faster paycheck than like an eight-month process or something?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum. We do have a question on our application, like are you available for immediate employment. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, if you have the question on the application and they say yes, how soon is that turnaround from their yes to your...you...they being hired by you?

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MS. RAZO-PORTER: So --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Or the department?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right. So, a DM-89, you know, the department decides that they want a DM-89, and, you know, if they say, we want a DM-89 and we just don't have one, then we can offer them, you know, some of those names to, you know, recruit from. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Sometimes DM-89s are difficult because, you know, there's a training, there's, you know, information that needs to be shared with the new candidate, and if it seems, you know...you know, it's...it's a cost-benefit analysis that the departments have to do because, you know, people don't come in just ready to work, it really just depends on the job, I guess.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum. Um-hum. So, when you mentioned earlier about some departments have recruiting incentives, what are some of those incentives? Is it just money, is it benefits, is it what?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Mostly money. It pays for moving expenses, travel expenses, some are just, you know hiring bonuses I guess you can call them. It depends on the department, the position. They offer different incentives, maybe, you know, a signing bonus today and a bonus, you know, after six months or a year. Every department kind of designed it to suit their needs.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And you know the job description that I think Member Paltin was talking about, the Chief Hawaiian...what was that, Chief Hawaiian...was that language or specialist? Coordinate?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chief Hawaiian Cultural Specialist --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- different from the Hawaiian Language --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- position.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, that particular position, who do you...who do you ask besides the department as to what that job description would look like? You would talk to 'Ōiwi Resources, right, but are there other people that you'd talk to, like people at the UH to see if there's something out there that's maybe closely aligned to that or something?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: We would probably look at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Office of-- UH. I know that when we're pricing the...well, when the Salary Commission was looking at information to price the salaries for the Director and Deputy of 'Ōiwi Resources, we, you know, kind of looked at OHA and different...DHHL to see what kind of positions they



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had, what it was priced at. Bishop Museum.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum. Um-hum.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, yeah, we'd probably take that, UH, and see what...if they had any positions that, you know, a cultural specialist would align with.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, did you see if there was a difference between what the State offers in terms of OHA, UH, DHHL, versus what Bishop Museum would offer?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I don't recall, but yes, there were actual position descriptions and, you know, salaries associated with those kinds of work, and it was just kind of aligning to see, you know, if there were similarities and what they were.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum, um-hum, um-hum. So, earlier, you talked about probation being six months, and so who evaluates the...the employee? Would it be the department, or people in the department, or would it be the director of the department?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Generally, I would think it was the...the supervisor, and the manager, and the director of the department signs off.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Okay, next round. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, we're talking about operations now, which I knew we would with this department, and I wanted us to get refocused. This is about money, this is about budget, this is about their contract that they're...you know, the 300,000 that's in their budget. And then at another meeting when the...whoever has this department can go into all these questions, which are so relevant. But I will tell you, I...I did think it was going to be like this because of what we're talking about, right, with the magnitude of vacancies, we have a budget we're looking at, and the departments are saying we need to...like huge amounts of work for...in...in different departments, but yet we have such a large vacancy, how are they going to do it?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I'm going to stop here unless if you have a budget question, because I think we went down two times, three times, and sorry about that. And anybody have a budget question? You do?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, let's hear it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I want to know...I want to know if the 300,000 that you're --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- looking at is sufficient.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: That's a great question. So, if I can just share for one minute, so the...reviewing the administrative rules, our policies and procedures, this was like going to be an in-house initiative, and then when we talked to MD Nishita, he said, you should hire a consultant. And we were like, wow, could we do that? . . .*(laughing)*. . . And so, he suggested 300,000. So, is that sufficient? I...I don't even know, but thank you for the question.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, what if you...what if you go looking for a consultant and they come over this, then what you're going to have to do, come back for a budget amendment?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I suppose, yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That was my --

MS. MILNER: Thanks, Chair --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- budget question.

MS. MILNER: -- if I could just weigh in really quickly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. MILNER: What I would say is if they had sufficient funding available in the professional services line item to execute the contract with the hire amount, they would probably go ahead and do that and we would come in for a budget amendment to cover other costs that were still outstanding down the road if that makes sense.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, you're going to do the borrow from Peter to pay back Paul?

MS. MILNER: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You're done?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're done? Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. To follow up on Member Kama's question, for the rules and regulations, I wasn't...if you...I heard what you said in your opening

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comments, but I wasn't clear, like the rules and regulations are based on Administrative...Hawai'i Administrative Rules or Revised Statutes?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: It's based on HRS.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, if we...if the consultant that you hire determines some of the rules and regulations that need to be changed, not necessarily HRS would need to be amended?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Not necessarily. So, kind of the idea was to look at all the other jurisdictions and kind of compare, you know, like where we're similar, where we're not, why not, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would part of the --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- would we want to be?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would part of the request be if there are HRS provisions that are outdated or don't make sense, to like make it part of the HSAC package or part of the Maui County Council legislative package?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah, so...so, the hope is that we could identify like, you know, we're stuck with this because HRS, you know, determines, you know, there's some kind of provision that we're following, and does it make sense to keep it in there? And we would, you know, then look at, you know, making amendments to those statutory languages that may hinder. I mean, we don't...we don't know exactly at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is part of the process for the consultant to recommend amendments to HRS?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: That would be part of the...the look, and, you know, in consultation with us, right, because they're identifying, you know, these are some areas that you could change or you...you should look at, and we would go back to say, well, this is, you know, part of HRS and this is why it's in the rule.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would it be okay for them to look at HRS, look at the four county jurisdictions, and also compare it to other jurisdictions throughout the nation, and, you know, if something else is working way better --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- bring it here?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Looking for best practices, maybe?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, maybe try look for that. WBCP flyer.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I knew you were getting there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, they were very impressive when we talked to them, yeah, at NACo.  
All right. Any more questions, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, that --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And that'll be...thank you very much, and I think we have a bunch of  
questions --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, the ones from the Members for you to answer. And then before we  
close, we are ending early so that you can go home and celebrate birthday again, yeah?  
Oh...huh? Oh, no, no, no. We were supposed to end at 4, but here we are, right? So,  
we're getting better and better at this, Members. So, before we close, I want to just  
mention and remind you when you're going through these questions with the  
departments that the Economic Development Fund for your districts are due on April  
14th, which is a Monday, at 4:30. Just keep that in the back of your mind as you  
formulate everything. And then your priorities, two residency, five Countywide, two  
grants, and two revolving funds are due on April 17th, so when you review that, and the  
document that you were distrib--...that you got today will direct you to that. And then  
on April 21st, we get the real property tax certification, which is also a Monday, and  
that'll be an important day. Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The April 17th breakdown of what's due, what Granicus number  
is that, that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we made a...we made a spreadsheet, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, is it on here?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's a spreadsheet that you can use as a format for both of them, so the  
April 14th and April 17th.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Spreadsheet, what --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: James and Kirsten --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But it would be a number on Granicus?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. KRUEGER: The number is 41 on Granicus, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 41 for both?

MR. KRUEGER: For the...this is for the spreadsheet of the Councilmember priorities due April 17th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, and the one --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 41.

MR. KRUEGER: We did also send out a template for the grant priorities. I...I don't believe that one's up on Granicus, but...but that was transmitted to the Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we'll --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The district grant priorities?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, very good. And appreciate this very much, and look, we're early. Way early. Good job, Members. At this time --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I restrain myself so hard.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . The fun begins. Okay. This meeting is now adjourned. Wait, we're going to defer this item.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: KRF)**

**ACTION: DEFER.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And this meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**ADJOURN: 12:31 p.m.**

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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 77 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 9th day of April 2025, in Wailuku, Hawaii

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Logan Tsuji', is written over a horizontal line.

Logan Tsuji